

Kurdish deputies cause uproar

ANKARA (R) — Uproar broke out in Turkey's newly-elected parliament Wednesday over open displays of Kurdish nationalism by deputies at the oath-taking ceremony. "Long live the Kurdish people and Kurdistan," declared Leyla Zana, member from the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, in Kurdish after reciting her oath in Turkish. Ms. Zana, a slight, pale woman in a black dress, wore a headband in the Kurdish national colours of red, yellow and green. Acting Speaker Ali Riza Septiglu, himself a Kurd, adjourned the session for a second 15-minute recess as tempers flared. Battered members banged their desks, shouted, and stormed to the podium after Diyarbakir Deputy Hatip Dicle said: "My friends and I are reading this text under constitutional duress." The scenes of pandemonium were broadcast live on television from the wood-paneled general assembly hall in Ankara. Mr. Dicle, one of a 22-strong Kurdish faction in the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), is chairman of the Diyarbakir branch of Turkey's Human Rights Association. "We are wearing these colours to protest at an interior ministry ban on them in the southeast and because they are the national symbol of the Kurdish people," Mr. Dicle said of his breast pocket tricolour before the parliament session opened.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

Kuwait emir caps last oil fire

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait ended the world's worst oil field disaster with an opulent ceremony on Wednesday after taming the last of 732 wells torched in the Gulf war. The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, flicked a remote-control switch that sealed the "last" well after firefighters — their equipment freshly painted — quenched a 50-metre column of fire which had been reignited for the occasion. The last of the actual Gulf war fires was extinguished without fanfare earlier in the day in northern Kuwait. It had burned longer than expected because of shifting winds. Smoke from Kuwait oil fires formed a 1,000 kilometre plume which blanketed much of the Gulf for several months since February, blotting out the sun and causing record low temperatures. Hundreds of oil lakes, formed by spilled crude, still dot the emirate's desert. The well where the ceremony took place, 40 kilometres south of Kuwait City, had been brought under control last week.

Iraqi defence minister replaced

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein removed his defence minister Wednesday and replaced him with Interior Minister Ab Hassan Ali Maajid, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. A presidential decree said Defence Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan had been relieved of his duties. Mr. Maajid, who played a leading role in crushing post-Gulf war rebellions in the Kurdish north, will continue to act as interior minister for the time being, INA said.

UFO sighted in northern Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — An unidentified flying object (UFO) was observed in the skies over northern Israel early Wednesday, police reported. "It was a shining object, quite large as compared to other sky objects seen at the time," a police said. Police was first informed about the UFO at about 3:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) by a local taxi driver. The taxi news agency quoted the driver as saying the UFO resembled a shining half-ellipse. "We came to the area where the UFO was seen and we followed it while driving east ... it was in the air at the height of about 200 metres until the morning hours," the driver said. "Then at about 6 a.m. it disappeared." Asked to describe the mysterious object's flight, he said: "It moved to some point, stopped, made turns around itself and after several minutes moved in the northern direction and then back to the spot where it had initially stopped. It cannot make assumptions and decide what it was. This is what I saw ... police force was with us and they saw the same picture."

Arab allies in war to meet in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — The foreign ministers of six Gulf Arab states, Syria and Egypt are due to meet in Cairo Sunday to discuss regional security plans and the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Wednesday. Mr. Musa told reporters the ministers would discuss implementation of the Gulf security accord reached in March and "achieving cooperation between the eight states in the fields of security, politics, economy and information." Mr. Musa said the ministers would also discuss preparations to start the second phase of the Middle East peace talks after last week's peace conference in Madrid.

Joseph Skaf dies

BEIRUT (R) — Joseph Skaf, a prominent member of the Lebanese parliament and a former cabinet minister, died of a heart attack in Paris Tuesday, officials said. Mr. Skaf, 69, from the town of Zahleh in the eastern Bekaa Valley, served in several governments and was defence minister when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. His death reduced the number of deputies in the 108-seat assembly to 106 and gave Muslims a two-seat majority, the officials said Wednesday. The last general elections in Lebanon were in 1972. The government appointed 40 new deputies in June.

SLA: No prisoner release expected

TEL AVIV (AP) — The commander of Israel's proxy militia in South Lebanon was quoted by Israeli media Wednesday as saying he had no plans to release more prisoners from the Al Khiam prison. Freedom for Arabs held in the militia's prison has been demanded as the price for releasing nine Western hostages in Lebanon. "I think that at this point we have freed enough prisoners from Al Khiam and we are not freeing additional prisoners at this point," Antoine Lahd of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, was quoted as saying by the daily Haaretz and radio stations.

De Klerk due in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — South African President F.W. de Klerk will pay a three-day visit to Israel next week, the foreign ministry said Wednesday.

Delegation returns from Madrid, satisfied case presented to the world

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference returned to Amman Wednesday to a warm welcome by His Majesty King Hussein, and expressed satisfaction that they successfully presented the Jordanian and Palestinian case to the world community from the Spanish capital last week.

King Hussein shook hands with the returning delegates, who were accompanied by their advisory and media committees and members of the Jordanian and Palestinian press. Also welcoming the group, which attended the U.S.-Soviet sponsored peace conference, were Prime Minister Taher Masi, Palestinian Ambassador Tayeb Abdul Rahim, Jordanian officials and families of the delegates.

Although still unsure of the venue of the next round of talks with Israel, the jubilant-looking head of the Jordanian negotiating team, Abdul Salam Majali, described the beginning of the historic conference as a success as he returned home with his Palestinian colleagues.

"I think we have succeeded," Dr. Majali told journalists, adding that the Palestinian and Jordanian identities had now become clear to the world.

"The Palestinian people and land were in the hearts, in the ears and in front of the eyes of

possibly every person in the world, in every village, every room and every club," Dr. Majali said. "And that is a great success in itself."

He added that the conference, which was covered worldwide by the international media and in many cases live on television, had also proven wrong the Israeli claims that "Jordan is Palestine."

"The Jordanian identity was very clear and we hoped that we clarified in the minds of the people that Jordan is no more Palestine as the Israelis claimed," Dr. Majali stressed.

Commenting on whether there were any indications that Israel would eventually withdraw from the occupied territories, Dr. Majali said he hoped that Israel's talk of peace would change into deeds.

The leading Jordanian delegate told reporters that the negotiating priority for the Kingdom with the Israelis in the next round of meetings would be Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, but that this issue could not be a precondition to the negotiations. "The issue of the settlements is the very first thing to be discussed by us and by the Palestinian delegation, and by the Arab delegations," Dr. Majali said, adding that an Israeli freeze of settlements would not be a precondition because "you have to put a procedure first and then set the agenda."

The spokesperson and advisor

for the Palestinian delegation, Hanan Ashrawi, said that the strategies for dealing with the issue of Israeli settlements were being worked out by the Arab parties in the conference.

Dr. Ashrawi told reporters upon her arrival that ongoing Arab coordination was continuing and that the issue of settlements "will be the focus of a concerted Arab effort."

The Palestinian delegation, headed by Gaza Physician Hajdar Abdul Shafi, had demanded that Israel put a halt on Jewish settlements in the Arab territories it occupied in 1967 as a confidence-building measure before the negotiations for peace started.

The joint delegation held two sessions of bilateral talks with the Israeli delegation in Madrid.

"The first meeting was purely procedural, so you cannot start by saying 'I will not work out procedural issues until you halt settlements,'" Dr. Ashrawi said.

She said that it was not the first time that the Palestinian people meet with the Israelis, being the occupier, but that it was the first time that the meeting was on an equal basis.

"It is the first time we force them (Israelis) to sit face to face on the same table on an equal basis and to recognise the fact that we are a people with national rights; with an identity they had tried to eradicate all this time."

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Baker rebukes Israel for settlement, sets 2 weeks for decision on talks venue

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State James Baker has rebuked Israel for opening a new Golan Heights settlement within hours of its peace talks with Arab states, saying it's "hard for us to see" how that helps the process.

Mr. Baker also said Tuesday a two-week consultation period is needed before Israel and the Arab states can decide on when and where to hold follow-up talks to their historic negotiations in Madrid.

"That's not an ironclad deadline," Mr. Baker said. "The process needs at least two weeks" for the peace conference representatives to return to their countries and consult with leaders on the next steps.

He made the comments in a news conference with reporters at the White House.

Asked about Israel's inauguration of a new Jewish settlement in the occupied Golan Heights, Mr. Baker said: "You know our attitude on settlements. We've made

it very clear. And it's... hard for us to see how inaugurating a new settlement now can help the negotiating process that we've just finished launching."

Just getting the parties to the table in bilateral talks was a threshold-crossing milestone, said Mr. Baker, who spent countless hours working to make it happen.

"What I think is needed now more than anything else are steps that would create a positive environment for these talks," he said.

In an obvious slam at Israel, he added, "and steps or actions that are provocative or unilateral, steps that would be seen by one side or the other as provocative, whether they are provocative or not, are hardly likely, I think, to build the kind of climate that would serve the cause of peace."

The ceremony Monday to inaugurate the new settlement of Kala was attended by Israel's headline

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Israelis kill Palestinian, ban all demonstrations

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian in the West Bank late Tuesday and the army said all unauthorized demonstrations in the occupied territories, including peace marches, would be banned.

Troops shot and critically wounded Mahdi Abu Al Hassan, 19, in Arrabeh village in the occupied West Bank after allegedly being pointed a sub-machine gun at them, reports said.

Mr. Hassan later died of his wounds. Israelis have killed 338 Palestinians since the outbreak of the revolt in December 1987, according to a Reuters count.

Army Chief of Staff Ehud Barak told Israeli television his troops would prevent all unauthorized demonstrations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We will not allow any sort of demonstrations. With that, for now, if a demonstration develops and it is not violent the commander in the field will consider the correct manner to disperse it," he said.

"The principal problem is that some of the demonstrations that begin with olive branches ... turn quickly into violent demonstrations with stone throwing and physical confrontation."

Palestinians supporting the landmark Arab-Israeli peace talks have come out in their thousands in the West Bank and Gaza Strip decorating army vehicles with olive branches.

But there have also been smaller demonstrations by headline Palestinian groups against the peace process.

The fundamentalist Hamas movement on Tuesday issued a leaflet promising death to supporters of peace.

"We warn away those bargaining away Palestine ... that be who will approve the confiscation of Palestine and Jerusalem will not pass without a punishment. The fate of (Anwar) Sadat is already known," it said in reference to the Egyptian president killed in 1981.

"We hold the PLO, the Palestinian delegation, and the Arab regimes responsible," the leaflet said.

Israel: Issue of site for bilaterals could be discussed

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman said Wednesday that Israel would be willing to listen to other proposals for where to hold bilateral talks with Arab states if the Mideast were definitely ruled out.

"We still hold to our position that the talks should take place in the region, and we will try to consult and reach that goal," said spokesman Ehud Gol.

"If this doesn't work we will hear other proposals," he said. Israeli newspapers have speculated that Rhodes or Cyprus could be acceptable sites, but Mr. Gol said only that countries close to the Middle East might be an option.

Mr. Gol later said, however, that he was not saying Israel would necessarily accept a site outside the region.

Cyprus said Wednesday it was willing to host the talks.

The question where bilateral talks would be held emerged as a key disagreement at the Madrid peace talks. Israel wants the talks held alternately on its own soil and that of each Arab state. Syria insists on a neutral site.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Tuesday called on Israel and the Arabs to decide within two weeks where the next round of Middle East peace talks should be held.

"If there's no agreement ... we will feel free to submit proposals" on a site to follow up the meeting in Madrid, Mr. Baker told a White House news conference.

Mr. Gol said that Israel was "obviously consulting with the Americans as well" on the issue of bilateral talks, saying that "together we will reach some sort of understanding."

On Wednesday, the daily Haaretz reported that Israeli officials would secretly meet Syrians in Europe and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the occupied territories to choose sites for the bilateral talks.

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His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference upon their return to Amman. The King greets (clockwise) Abdul Salam Al Majali, head of the Jordanian team in the delegation, and Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian side, and Dr. Majali speaks to the press at the airport. (Photos by Yusef Al'Alam)



King, Arafat discuss outcome of peace conference, next moves

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadwa Palace Wednesday Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and reviewed with him the outcome of the first phase of the Madrid Middle East peace conference.

The King and Mr. Arafat also exchanged views about the requirements of the next stage in the peace process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was present at the audience as well as Prime Minister Taher Masi and other officials together with a Palestinian delegation accompanying Mr. Arafat, who arrived here late Tuesday.

Mr. Masi met separately with Mr. Arafat, who left late Wednesday, and discussed with him the outcome of the peace conference held in Madrid.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the Arab parties' performance at the Madrid conference and the level of coordination and cooperation between the Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators who attended the meeting in a joint delegation.

The two sides also discussed following up such cooperation at the various stages of the peace process.



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (Petra photo).

Following the meeting, Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif said that coordination between the two sides will continue on all matters.

Asked to comment on reports on the prospect of convening an Arab summit meeting, Mr. Sharif said the subject was not raised at the meeting although a number of Arab countries have been seeking a summit.

Jordan and the Palestinians welcome any Arab summit to study means of ending differences among Arab states resulting from

the Gulf crisis, Mr. Sharif said. The venue for bilateral talks at the peace conference, the minister said, is under discussion with the U.S. and the Soviet Union but no agreement has been reached yet. He said contacts were under way with all concerned parties.

Mr. Sharif said that Jordan does not object to the bilateral talks being held in Washington provided all other Arab parties agree to it.

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SLA continues shelling as Karami assails Sharon

TYRE (Agencies) — Israeli-backed militiamen shelled villages in South Lebanon Wednesday in retaliation for a roadside bomb explosion, security sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the explosion took place at 1:30 p.m. (1130 GMT) on a road leading to a position manned by Israel's proxy, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

They did not have an immediate word on casualties. Hizbollah (Party of God) claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a statement released in this southern port city, Hizbollah said the explosion blew up a joint Israeli-SLA patrol, killing or wounding three members of the patrol.

SLA gunners retaliated by shelling the villages of Yater and Hadathah, both near Rafah and within the United Nations' peacekeepers' zone of operations, the sources said.

A source at the U.N. peacekeepers' headquarters in the border town of Naqoura said at least 40 rounds of mortar shells fell on the two villages.

The source said Israel also shelled for a second day "Hizbollah

targets" around the southern market town of Nabatiyeh and the nearby Iqim Al Tuffah, in addition to fields of Ballehah and Ain Al Tineh in the western Bekaa Valley in southeast Lebanon, with Howitzers.

Another 40 artillery rounds were fired from Israeli and SLA positions inside Israel's self-styled "security zone" in the south on the same areas overnight, the U.N. source added.

The security sources reported no casualties from the shelling, which renewed Tuesday after a two-day lull in the week-long massive bombardment of Nabatiyeh and a cluster of nearby villages.

That wave of violence came to a halt late Saturday, when the United States reportedly intervened with the Israelis to prevent harm to the peace talks in Madrid.

Lebanese Prime Minister Omar Karami hit out at Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon for calling for the Jewish state to double the size of the "security zone" in south Lebanon.

"It is not surprising such declarations are made by Ariel Sharon who is known for his extremist, bloody, terrorist history against Lebanon and all Arabs," Mr. Karami said.

Abu Jaber returns, says Madrid first step for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber returned to Amman Wednesday after holding talks in Brussels with European Community (EC) foreign ministers on political and economic issues of concern to Jordan and Europe.

Dr. Abu Jaber who earlier flew to Brussels Friday after leading the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, said in a statement upon returning to Amman that the peace conference constituted a step towards achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

He said a peace settlement would come within a defined agenda based on international legality and U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, which call for the exchange of land for peace and Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland.

Dr. Abu Jaber said that the conference, reopened the file of the Palestinian issue and placed Israel face to face with the crucial question of peace.

The conference showed that Israel's call for direct negotiations with the Arabs in the past years was only a manoeuvre and the coming weeks will show Israel's real intentions and whether it has the desire to deal with the Palestine problem on the basis of justice and international legitimacy, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

The conference, he said, offered the Arabs the chance to present their demands to the world, especially to the superpowers.

His talks in Brussels were successful, Dr. Abu Jaber said. The EC ministers have voiced their countries' support for Jordan and their backing for His Majesty King Hussein's wise leadership and policies, he said.

The EC ministers have offered assistance to Jordan. Italy in particular said it would give Jordan \$40 million in the immediate future.

Queen reviews projects with World Bank envoys

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has received two World Bank envoys who have been studying two project proposals submitted by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) for funding from the World Bank.

The two envoys, Nicole Gineux and Alain Fuedy de Grissac, presented the Queen with their draft recommendations to the World Bank aimed at securing funding and technical assistance to implement the two projects. They said that they were deeply impressed by Jordan's achievements in providing protection to the environment and preserving its natural resources. There are pioneering efforts in the region and the Third World at large, the envoys said.

The RSCN has applied for the funds to the World Bank through its Global Environment Facility (GEF) programme. One of the two proposed projects is to provide protection to the Agaba coast from pollution caused by the fallout of phosphate, cement and sulphur dust and protection to the coral reefs and marine life, considered a national wealth.

The project also includes creating a wild life reserve at Wadi Rum in southern Jordan, complete with touristic services and the protection of the diverse species of animals and plants in that area.

The second proposed project concerns the Dana Wild Life Reserve near Tafleeh. The project entails setting up a number of industrial, touristic and agricultural projects around the reserve area.

According to Ms. Gineux, once the Dana project has been implemented, it would serve as a model for others in the whole region and also at the international level.

The Queen, who is patron of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), thanked the two World Bank envoys and stressed her support for all projects carried out by the RSCN to provide protection to any natural wealth and to create job opportunities for Jordanians, especially in the rural areas of Jordan.

RSCN President Anis Moasher was present at the meeting, which took place at the Ma'wa Palace.

Queen distributes awards to competition winners

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday distributed prizes to the winners of the Queen Noor Award for Children's Literature in a ceremony held at Royal Cultural Centre.

Dr. Mahmoud Shalabi and Ali Al Batri won for their poetry. Fathi Masi won the prize for plays while the prize for the short story and popular heritage was withheld.

Each of the winners received JD 1,000 for their distinguished accomplishments.

Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat delivered an address in which he underlined the ministry's keenness on providing culture and knowledge to children and fostering the love for reading.

Nabileh Wahbeh, from the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, reviewed the various stages of the award, which emanated from the Children's Literature Symposium organized in 1987.

After the distribution of the prizes, the Queen opened a national book exhibition of children's books displaying the works of 40 Jordanian writers. A total of 150 titles covering short stories, poetry folklore culture and others are covered.

Cabinet approves Jordanian attendance at meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in the seventh meeting of the Arab Transport Ministers' Council due to open in Tripoli, Libya, on Nov. 20, according to a statement by the Council of Ministers.

The statement said that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Subeimat will lead the Jordanian delegation to that meeting.

The cabinet also said that Jordan will participate in the ninth gathering of the Arab Interior Ministers meeting due to open in Tunis on Dec. 1, and said that Interior Minister Jawdat Esboul will lead the Jordanian delegation to the meeting.

The cabinet approved a financial protocol with France which provides for a loan from the French government totalling 120 million francs. The French loan, which carries an interest rate of one per cent, will help Jordan finance its imports and services from France and will be paid over 17 years with a seven-year grace period.

The cabinet statement said that Jordan's ambassador to France will sign the protocol in Paris on behalf of the Jordanian government. According to the statement, a new department, to be known as the Agricultural Policy Department will be created at the Ministry of Agriculture.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Soviet Union

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to congratulate him on the anniversary of the October Revolution. King Hussein expressed appreciation of the friendship relations and cooperation between Jordan and the Soviet Union and voiced his hope that these relations will be enhanced. King Hussein wished Mr. Gorbachev good health and happiness and the Soviet people further progress and prosperity.

Abu Jaber meets Belgian official

BRUSSELS (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Wednesday met with the Belgian foreign minister and discussed with him bilateral relations between Jordan and Belgium and ways of enhancing them. The meeting was attended by Jordan's ambassador in Brussels Talal Satah Al Hassan.

UNRWA inaugurates health clinic

AMMAN (Petra) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Director in Jordan Franke De Jong Wednesday inaugurated a health clinic and Al Mashara town in the northern Jordan Valley region. Director of UNRWA's Health Services Nashat Ammani delivered an address at the ceremony and outlined health services provided by UNRWA to Palestinian refugees. The ceremony was attended by several officials in the region.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Iraqi art exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery of Art and Culture, Gardens Street.
- ★ A special season of antique lithographs, engravings, folio-illustrations and maps, 18th & 19th century prints of Palestine, Jordan — the Mideast as well as orientalist scenes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental.
- ★ Photography exhibition by Aseeb Alwan at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Graphic Arts of the 60s" (from the Federal Republic of Germany) at the Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation gallery (open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of photos by Thierry Girard at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of traditional embroidery and handmade items at the Marriott Hotel.



Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Wednesday meets with visiting European journalists and briefs them on peace process (Petra photo)

Minister reaffirms Jordan's commitment to peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Tuesday expressed hope that a comprehensive and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli conflicts would be reached in a manner that would enable the peoples of the region to live in peace and invest their natural resources for their own good.

In a meeting with a 12-member team of journalists sent on a tour of the region by the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDP), Mr. Sharif said that His Majesty King Hussein had always been seeking and working for a just and lasting peace in the region and had approved peace initiatives aimed at reaching a solution to the conflict.

Mr. Sharif told the journalists who represent newspapers in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom that Jordan played a key role in drafting U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which is considered a basis for solving the conflict.

He reaffirmed Jordan's determination to proceed in the peace process and emphasised its adherence to international legitimacy principles as well as its keenness to safeguard legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

He expressed his doubts over Israel's seriousness in carrying out its role in the peace process.

The minister briefed the delegation on the difficulties facing Jordan as a result of the Gulf crisis and stressed that Jordan is trying to overcome all obstacles left by the crisis. He said Jordan was trying to bridge the gap left between Arab states as a result of the crisis.

Jordan, he added, is working on enhancing its relations with the Arab states which took a different stand than that of Jordan during the crisis. There are some encouraging signals in this regard "but not to the required level," he said.

The UNDP team arrived here Monday evening on a visit to Jordan in order to inspect the agency's services to Palestinian refugees. The team was received Tuesday by Director of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department Adel Irshaid, who briefed them on the Jordanian government's assistance to the refugees.

The team will visit the bridges area on the River Jordan Friday before departing to Syria. The team arrived in Amman from Tunisia where they met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials for a discussion on the situation in the region.

In another development, Mr. Sharif received Wednesday the director of Jordan, Syria and the Northern Arab Peninsula Bureau in the American Foreign Office. The minister reviewed with the visiting U.S. official the situation in the region and the results of the Madrid conference as well as the Jordanian-U.S. relations.



Diana Taylor and Tony Howard unfurl the "Climb for the World" flag at the summit of Jebel Rumm while Sabah Al-Ateeq, another member of the group, looks on

One group's climb for peace

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As Arab and Israeli delegates were trying to overcome the mountain of differences between them in Madrid last week, Tony Howard and his entourage were scaling the highest peak in Jordan.

While separated by thousands of miles, the two events were interrelated. Mr. Howard — along with Diana Taylor, Bill Vinton and Sabah Al-Ateeq — were scaling Jebel Rumm, the highest mountain in the Kingdom at 1,754 metres, to unfurl the "Climb for the World" flag in support of United Nations efforts for world unity and peace.

"It's a small effort to bring some attention to the problems of the Middle East," Mr. Howard, sipping tea in the lobby of the Amra Hotel, told the Jordan Times.

Since his first visit to the area in 1984, Mr. Howard has made 10 visits to Wadi Rumm,

where Jebel Rumm is located. But for the 51-year old Mr. Howard, who looks more like he is in his early 30s, this climb "was special because it gave me an opportunity to give something back to a part of the world that has given us so much."

"It was an opportunity for us to make a statement about (a) the need for peace in the Middle East and (b) the need to create a national park in the Wadi Rumm area," he said.

In hoping to convince the government of the need to make the Wadi Rumm area a national park and wild-life reserve, Mr. Howard has held meetings with officials from the Ministry of Tourism and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). Officials have assured him that the Kingdom will study the idea and promised to balance development of the area with conservation efforts, he said.

During Mr. Howard's many visits to the Wadi Rumm area, a strong friendship has de-

veloped between him and the bedouins of the region. The bedouins he said, are especially concerned about their area as government officials look to continue to develop the country.

Because of their knowledge and concern for the area and its precious resources, Mr. Howard suggests that the bedouins be consulted on plans for the future of the region. "They're the natural guardians of the land because they've lived there so many thousands of years," he said.

New labour minister to continue to replace non-Jordanian workers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour has adopted no new policies with regard to the employment of foreign workers in Jordan and the labour and employment laws now in force will be strictly applied to all cases, according to acting Minister of Labour Qassem Obaidat.

In his first statement three weeks after the resignation of former Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, Dr. Obaidat said that the Ministry of Labour has found little or no cooperation on the part of the employers concerning the employment of foreign workers without work permits. But the ministry will not be lenient with any one of the foreign workers or the employers.

Mr. Dughmi resigned following reported differences between the former ministers and cabinet members over the application of labour law and labour policies.

A great number of employers are keeping quiet about the non-Jordanian workers without work permits despite repeated ministry warnings, but the ministry will assess penalties on all violators of the law, Dr. Obaidat warned.

Referring to the problem of unemployment, Dr. Obaidat said that the government has no ready-made solutions, but was doing all it could to find jobs for the unemployed. In addition, the



Qassem Obaidat

government is in close contact with Libya and Yemen to ensure the employment of the largest possible number of Jordanians in the two countries, Dr. Obaidat said. He added that at the same time, the government was imposing restrictions on the employment of foreign workers to open the way for Jordanians job seekers to fill those slots.

Within one year, all non-Jordanian truck drivers will have left the country, he said. The ministry is now turning down applications for foreign truck drivers, which will force local companies to employ Jordanians, Dr. Obaidat said.

According to official Labour Ministry statistics, the rate of unemployment among the Jordanian work force rose from 3.6 per cent in the early 1980s to 16.8 per

cent in 1990. Joblessness now stands at 20 per cent.

There are no less than 140,000 unemployed Jordanians at present, up from 106,000 in 1990 and 15,000 in the early 1980s, according to government statistics.

According to the statistics, the number of non-Jordanians working in the Kingdom stood at 80,000 in 1980, rising to 200,000 in 1989 and 250,000 by the middle of last year, just before the outbreak of the Gulf crisis. The number dramatically dropped to 165,000 by end of 1990, according to the statistics.

The ministry's statistics also showed that the total workforce in Jordan stood at 420,000 in 1980, rising to 583,000 in 1989 and 630,000 in 1990, largely due to the Gulf crisis, while the number of Jordanian workers flowing out of the country to work abroad dropped from 8,000 a year in the first half of the 1980s to less than 3,000 a year in the second half.

By the end of the past year, some 30,000 Jordanian workers who were employed in the Gulf states had returned to Jordan, rising to 50,000 at present, according to the statistics. The ministry said that the return of some 300,000 Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates to the Kingdom in the wake of the Gulf crisis has severely aggravated the unemployment situation.

Jordan, China discuss prospects for increasing trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Discussions of Jordanian-Chinese Economic Cooperation were held at the Amman Chamber of Industry Wednesday with teams from both sides concentrating on areas for increasing the volume of trade between China and Jordan.

Chamber President Khaldoun Abu Hassan said Jordan was keen on promoting trade and launching joint Jordanian-Chinese ventures. He briefed the Chinese team on Jordan's laws and regulations governing economic projects, incentives for investments and other related matters.

He also touched on the prospect of enlisting help from Chinese technicians to help Jordan carry out industrial schemes.

Jordan, he said, is keen on launching joint economic ventures, especially in the production of spare parts for machinery and in textiles, agriculture and engineering fields.

Mr. Abu Hassan invited the Chinese industrialists to benefit from Jordan's central geographic location to expand China's trade with countries of the region.

The Chinese team represents China's side to the joint Jordanian-Chinese Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee meeting in Amman. It's members will be accompanied on a tour of a number of Jordanian industrial projects.

Ministries pledge to support scouts movement in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ministries of education and youth and joining efforts to boost the activities of the scouts movement in Jordan and are offering facilities to achieve that goal, according to a statement issued Wednesday.

The statement came after a meeting between representatives of the two ministries with Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, during which various matters related to the scout movement in the Kingdom were reviewed.

The Princess urged the ministries of education and youth to offer meaningful support for the scout and girl guides society in the country and stimulate the scouts' movement activities to serve society.

Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat and Minister of Youth Salah Irshaid, along with Ministry of Higher Education Secretary General Ahmad Al Bashaiah, attended the meeting.

The Princess urged the concerned ministries to organise a public awareness campaign to encourage the youth to join the

scout movement and offer voluntary service to the community. The Ministry of Youth is offering a serval dunum plot of land within the King Hussein Youth City perimeter for the construction of a headquarters for the scout society and will make available other essential elements to boost the movement's activities, according to Mr. Dahiyat.

Mr. Dahiyat said that the Engineering Department at his ministry will help the movement by preparing the designs for the project and will have the printing press of the Ministry of Education publish all the booklets and publications pertaining to the scout society in Jordan.

The Princess last week visited a scout camp in the north of Jordan and inspected the girl guides various activities.

Present at the meeting, which was held at the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund, was Abulah Abu Nowar and Sweif Dawaghreh, members of the society's executive committee and officials from the Ministry of Education.



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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

محرك نشر يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

A job well done

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein was at Amman airport Wednesday evening to receive the returning Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference. This gesture by the King is a testimony to his and the Jordanian people's strong appreciation of the effort put forth by each and everyone of the delegates to the historic parley. Despite more than a week of hard work, and many hours of preparatory meetings and research, the delegation members were enthusiastic and upbeat. They feel, rightly so, that they were party to making history. A lot of praise goes to the delegation heads and the spokespersons who scored many points against the Israeli propagandists. The Israelis, as can be discerned from their media reports and analysis are both bitter and envious of the success of the Jordanian-Palestinian performance at Madrid. Experts at manipulating the media and public opinion, especially in the West, the Israelis are blaming the Western media of advocating the Arab cause and taking the Arab side at the expense of Israel.

Upset at their own failure to defend maximalist and impossible stances, the Israelis are now even contemplating forming a ministry of information to help repair the severe damage sustained by them at Madrid. What they choose to ignore though is the fact that the success with the media by the Jordanians and Palestinians was not because they had ministries of information, but because of the justice of our cause. Hassan Ashrawi, who repeatedly stole the limelight from and shined brighter than Benjamin Netanyahu in the Spanish capital, has no ministry of information behind her. The Jordanians and the Palestinians present at and around the peace conference had responded to and interacted with the press honestly and genuinely, without using Netanyahu's stereotypes of "biblical Israel," "terrorists" and "Arabs bent on destroying Israel." They went to Madrid as peace-seekers who want an end to Israel's brutal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, an occupation whose atrocities have long been exposed in reports of governments and international organisations such as Amnesty International and the U.S. State Department. Apart from certain manipulations of the Syrian performance and positions, the Arabs generally did a superb job. Our delegations stated the position of Jordan and Palestine and the aspirations of Jordanians and Palestinians clearly and succinctly. They did not go to lecture the world in the distant history of the holy land nor did they level false accusations against the other side, as the Israelis tried to do unto us.

Last night when the joint delegation arrived in Amman every member must have felt very proud at the warm welcome they received from the Jordanian leadership, and they deserve to be. They left with olive branches in their hands and returned with wreaths of triumph. We salute them, for they have done a good job in representing us and our cause.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT is quite satisfactory to see Western nations realising the truth about Jordan's position with regard to the Gulf crisis and the Palestine problem and trying to awaken to the realities and the facts of the ground, said Al Rai Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that the Western media had been hostile to Jordan during the Gulf crisis when Jordan was trying to advocate reason rather than war and bloodshed, but it seems that now everything is changing to the better as the press in the West has been reflecting a different view about the kingdom. Jordan's position has not changed throughout the crisis and its call for reason persists because its people and leadership continue to denounce any call for warmongering and reject the destruction of a country and its people, the paper stressed. It said that Jordan has been seeking to save the Middle East from suffering and bloodshed and has, for that matter, won many enemies in the West which was bent on launching war on Iraq. The paper said that the Western media has now realised the truth about Jordan which adopts moderate policies as it pursues the democratic process on all fronts. It said that the Western media has discovered that it has been promoting lies and falsehoods about Jordan and has been deceiving the public in the Western countries. It is quite interesting, said the paper, to see how the Western media will now deal with the question of Israel's continued rejection of the international legality and the implementation of U.N. resolutions that call for an end to the occupation of Palestinian land.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily called for an immediate freeze of all settlements being built on the occupied Palestinian land and said this is a pre-requisite for the achievement of a lasting peace. The paper said that despite the initial satisfaction over the outcome of the opening session at the Madrid conference, one can only view with apprehension the ongoing aggressive policies of the Shamir government, represented in the construction of settlements on Arab land. The settlements constitute a flagrant defiance of the world community's will and the U.N., especially as such settlements are being erected as the peace conference is in progress, said the paper. It said that the building of Jewish settlements on the West Bank and the Syrian Golan Heights represents a provocation to the Arab side and the co-sponsors of the peace parley and therefore, every effort should be exerted now to halt this process that is detrimental to the future stability and security of the region. Unless the Bush administration imposes its will and the requirements of peace on Israel, it is feared that all its endeavours to bring about a lasting settlement could be jeopardised, the paper stressed. It said that the United States is called on the force Israel to stop the construction of settlements so that the road to peace can be opened for all parties.

Reflections

Central planning and centralised whimsy

By Safwan Bataineh

AS I grappled with a myriad of conflicting emotions and a few shattering revelations, all invoked by the drama in Madrid and each worthy of expansive commentary, a shopkeeper told me a story which provided both a merciful distraction from anguished thoughts and a timely opportunity to avoid writing something I may regret about the peace process.

It seems that the Ministry of Supply, which has a monopoly on the distribution of strategic custom-free goods like Pierre Cardin suits and others, had ceased to supply the shops with foreign brand cigarettes a few days before. The official reason given to inquiring shopkeepers was that the bureaucrat in charge had to attend to his sick wife.

I was so touched by this latest manifestation of public sector humaneness that I wished all goods and services would be provided exclusively by the government (a wish that may soon be fulfilled in the present rush towards socialist ideals). I got thinking about all those selfish businessmen and companies who keep bringing their goods to the market regardless of the health of their employees or the health of their employees' spouses. Even the pains of the director's wife would not deter these private organisms of greed from going about their daily activities as if nothing had happened.

What kind of a world is that which makes a fuss about tuna and focaccas being stained with the blood of dolphins and minks and keeps silent about all other private sector goods which may be stained with the blood of human mothers? Should we, Jordanians, continue to indulge our stomachs and lungs while oblivious to human suffering? Certainly not. Let us affirm our humanity by turning over all commercial activities to the public sector. This

way, each time our children go without milk, shoes, or potato chips, we know that a public sector mother is suffering somewhere and we can teach the children a practical lesson in human solidarity.

I am proud to note that while bastions of communism like China and North Vietnam are dismissing millions of civil servants and threatening public sector firms with closure if they do not show a profit, we in Jordan, spend every last penny we receive on hiring more civil servants and raising their hard-earned pay. Furthermore, we have no intention of molesting our public sector companies or bothering them in any way even though many of them are practically and legally bankrupt.

I am even prouder of the fact that while socialist countries are falling over each other in their mad rush towards capitalist dictates and such vulgar notions as economic growth and higher income, we, in Jordan, have finally decided to drop all pretenses of a free economy and private initiative and to pursue openly our long-held socialist ideals. These ideals are articulated all so well by the media in daily calls for the government to intervene everywhere and at all times, and by the statements of both departing ministers (Mr. Dughni's interview with "Shihan" is one notable example) and those who still have not found a popular cause to quit over. The socialist ideals are embodied in the decidedly socialist composition of the new political elite, in every nook and cranny of the economy, and, of course, in those towering creations of socialist ingenuity: the ministries of supply and planning.

Most importantly, our own brand of socialist/bureaucratic philosophy is home-grown and authentically original. While central planners in other socialist countries used to (until their

recent demise) allocate production targets to various public sector firms and review their performance annually, we eschewed such mundane practices. Instead, we developed our own system of centralised personal style management.

This is how it works: first, you ensure that the laws, bi-laws, codes, rules and regulations and the absence of transparent and non-discretionary procedures will render all activities on Jordanian soil dormant till action is taken by the Council of Ministers. Second, you encapsulate these actions in the form of decrees tucked neatly into colourful folders of green, red, blue and, sometimes, yellow. Third, you pile these folders sky high in front of senior ministers and Cabinet meetings for review and signature. Fourth, you keep the whole country on hold till the Cabinet or any one of a multitude of ministerial committees convenes. Therefore, if the senior minister who chairs most of these committees is busy elsewhere or has a plumbing problem at home, the whole country gets to feel his concerns.

The process is repeated at lower levels of the bureaucratic hierarchy until we reach the cigarettes distributors. The lofty aim of the system is to get the general public to share with the civil servants their distractions, concerns, indispositions, and meditations, thereby fusing the people and their big brothers into a wholesome oneness.

Hopefully, Jordan will continue to chart its own humanistic and individualistic path towards the fulfillment of bureaucratic ideals, unimpaired and, better still, unaware of world developments. The rest of the world will eventually come around to our way of thinking. Otherwise, it may slip further down the road of crass and gaudy prosperity.

'U.S. tax dollars should not be used to finance killing and torture'

Following is a letter addressed by the Council for the National Interest (CNI) to the American people and signed by Paul Findley and Paul N. McCloskey ex-members of U.S. Congress.

WE are writing today to share some little-known facts and extremely disturbing information with you. Not one American in ten thousand knows the details you are about to learn. Much of this information you will find hard to believe. But we assure you that we can document the truth of every word.

The simple, said truth is that U.S. taxpayers are giving an extremist government in the Middle East over \$4 billion a year. Your tax dollars and ours are buying weapons that have killed thousands of innocent people — many of them children.

Even more disturbing, this regime's number one goal is to annex every square inch of land it has taken by military conquest. Not only does this violate American principles, but it is a major destabilising force in an already unstable part of the world.

In order to put this problem into perspective, just think back to last August, when President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Over 500,000 American troops were rushed to the Gulf to defend Saudi Arabia and liberate Kuwait. Thankfully, they sustained few casualties and are now beginning to come home. American patriotism is at an all-time high. But our attention has been so fixed on responding to Mr. Saddam Hussein's crimes that the damage being done to our national interest by another Middle East leader is virtually ignored.

This other leader uses U.S.-donated arms to enforce the virtual imprisonment of two million unarmed civilians. His regime dynamites their homes, closes their schools, tortures innocent women and children, and keeps them under long and cruel curfews.

The leader we are talking about is none other than Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir. His government discredits the people he claims to serve and dishonours principles of decency and justice that all Americans cherish.

We know these are strong words. And speaking as former

U.S. congressmen with long records of support for Israel this gives us no joy. But how can we condemn one terrorist, and as the same time give billions of dollars of foreign aid to another? This is exactly what is happening.

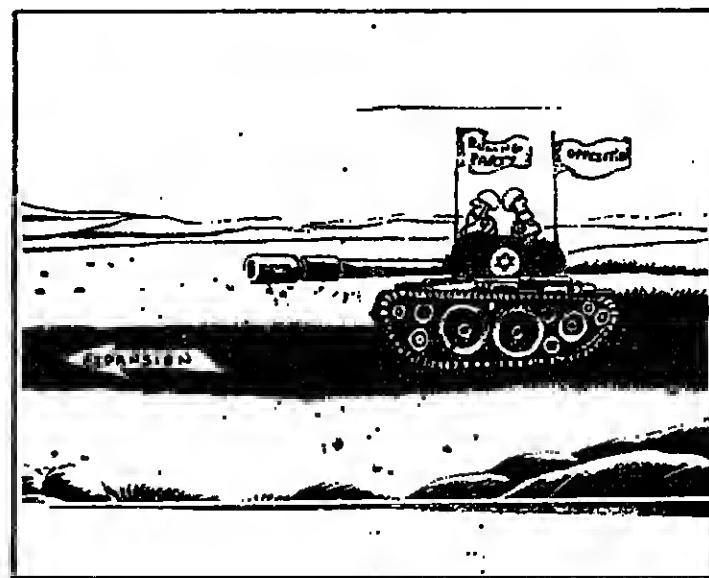
Most Americans are stunned to discover that Mr. Yitzhak Shamir's long record of terrorism reaches back in history for more than forty years.

Mr. Shamir's brutality is documented by Dr. Israel Shahak, a survivor of a Nazi death camp and now a renowned Israeli professor. Dr. Shahak describes in the January 1991 issue of The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs how... "During the whole of World War II, Shamir waged terrorist warfare against the allied powers fighting Hitler.... In the process, he masterminded the assassination of Lord Moyne, the British minister in charge of the Middle East."

In fact, Mr. Shamir was one of the gang leaders of the terrorist organisation named "Lehi" which ordered the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, chief U.N. mediator for Palestine.

"Nearly half a century later, Mr. Shamir hasn't changed. Now Mr. Shamir heads a regime that kills and abuses Palestinians. He denies them the right to vote, to hold jobs and even closes their schools and universities. It's no wonder that every American who spends any time in the West Bank and Gaza — the occupied territories — is horrified at the prison-like conditions he imposes by force of arms on the Palestinians living there. But more shocking, the U.S. government does more than turn a blind eye to this savage oppression. Our hard-earned tax dollars are even bankrolling it. Few of Mr. Shamir's abuses would be possible without U.S. financial aid. Just look at what our tax dollars are supporting.

Since 1987, more than 900 Palestinians have been killed by Mr. Shamir's cohorts. In fact, many Israeli soldiers refuse to serve in the occupied territories because they won't kill unarmed civilians. And the bad news gets worse. Israel's killing and abuse of children is even more horrifying. A recent 1,000 page report by the Save the Children Organisation and the Ford Foundation provides details. A July 15, 1990, report in The Washington Post by



Colman McCarthy, gives these figures:

"Between December 1987 and December 1988, 159 children under the age of 16 were killed by soldiers. The average age was 10." McCarthy continues: "Between 50,000 and 60,000 children were beaten, gassed or wounded. More than half of those slain were not near a demonstration when killed. Even after slaughtering children the Israelis (directed by Shamir) weren't content: soldiers disrupted or interfered with more than half the funerals."

In one ugly incident last June in Gaza, Israeli forces deliberately exploded tear gas canisters plainly labelled "made in U.S." inside a maternity hospital full of expectant mothers and infants.

And of course, Mr. Shamir's treatment of the Palestinians has been documented for years. Tens of thousands of Palestinians are imprisoned without any legal process or recourse. Israel's government admits that many are arrested to prevent them from doing something wrong in the future.

We are sure you agree this is an international outrage. This is not the kind of "justice" U.S. tax dollars should support. In fact, the history of America is the story of protecting human rights. Whenever oppression occurs, we are usually the first to respond.

We sacrificed 54,246 American lives in Korea and later 57,605 lives in Vietnam, trying to save these tiny nations from communist oppression.

We demanded the release of

Soviet Jews and of political prisoners in Central America. We worked to bring down the Berlin wall. We protest South African apartheid.

But when Mr. Shamir's violations occur, America is silent. Israel's powerful U.S. lobby has a virtual stranglehold on the U.S. Congress. No matter how outrageous Israel's behaviour, most congressmen obediently vote for aid. As a result, the U.S. hands over the equivalent of \$1,000 every year for each Israeli man, woman and child. No other nation gets as much U.S. foreign aid as Israel, and no other nation is less grateful.

Last year, for example the Israeli government committed gross deception and fraud against the American taxpayer. Congress approved without question an additional \$400 million in U.S. tax dollar guarantees to Israel, under the condition that this money not be used outside Israel's pre-1967 borders.

Yet as soon as the aid was given, Israel defiantly began the construction of 15,000 units for Jewish immigrants outside these borders.

Still worse, Mr. Shamir recently asked President Bush for an astronomical \$10 billion in additional aid to finance the settlement of one million new immigrant Soviet Jews.

But even more shocking is the Shamir government's reaction to American sacrifices to liberate Kuwait and defeat Iraq, the neighbour Israel considers its most dangerous enemy.

Israeli officials repeatedly

urged America to attack Iraq. One would think Israel would be grateful when the attack began and give unstinting cooperation. After all, America has never hesitated to use our troops to protect Israel. When Israel faced missiles from President Saddam, we immediately sent Patriot missile crews to protect Tel Aviv!

But instead of gratitude, Shamir's government puts a huge price on cooperation — demanding \$3 billion from the U.S. Treasury to stay out of a war that Israel badly wanted to win.

Included was \$1 billion for tourism it lost during the war, \$1 billion for lost economic output, \$250 million for lost export orders, and \$30 million for damages caused by Iraqi missiles. Almost every nation on earth suffered in some way from the war, but only Israel sent America a bill.

Still more disturbing is Mr. Shamir's callous disregard for American lives. In the book, "By Way of Deception," Victor Ostrovsky, a former Israeli intelligence agent, documents that Israel knew ahead of time that the U.S. "nine barracks in Beirut might be bombed in 1983 but refused to warn our forces."

Incredibly, Mr. Shamir's government overruled a request that our forces be alerted. As a result, 241 U.S. Marines were killed in a truck-bomb massacre. Tel Aviv said it refused to warn our forces because Israel was "not there to protect Americans."

Mr. Shamir's Israel barmes America in still other ways. Israel damages our reputation and undermines our national interest by using the weapons we supply to kill innocent civilians outside the occupied territories.

In its 1982 invasion of Lebanon, Israel's forces used our weapons and military equipment to kill 19,084 Lebanese and Palestinians, wound 31,915, and leave 20,000 others homeless. And all of this happened with weapons the U.S. gave to Israel only for its defence.

Sadly, the Israel of today is radically different from the dream of decency and justice that brought Israel into existence in 1948. Mr. Shamir's regime has corrupted the ideals of the Jewish state.

But the reality of this corruption — and the damage it does to our own nation's interests — are largely unknown by the American people. Manipulated by

Israel's lobby, America has tragically become a part of the problem and not the solution.

The Council for the National Interest (CNI) was formed in 1989 by former U.S. congressmen and diplomats who are deeply disturbed over the damage the Shamir regime does to our nation's interests. Our membership has grown to include Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, Christians, Jews and Muslims.

CNI wants Israel to survive. Our organisation is committed to preserving — yes, even helping to defend Israel's pre-1967 borders.

But CNI strongly opposes — as does most of the world — Israel's illegal expansion over Arab territory. We are appalled and angered by Mr. Shamir's repeated pledges that he is determined to keep "every square inch" of the land Israel has taken by force.

CNI supports the two-state solution for the Israelis and the Palestinians — the solution endorsed by many Israeli military leaders and members of parliament. This is the sensible answer that will allow Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace with each other.

It is logical and fair for everyone. CNI is committed to a uniform policy of decency and fairness for all peoples in the Middle East. America's condemnation of President Saddam Hussein's terrorism must extend also to the terrorism carried out by Israel's government.

The United States must oppose and speak out against Mr. Shamir's defiance of United Nations resolutions and his abuse of innocent people with the same determination as we condemn Saddam Hussein's.

CNI's number priority is to provide the grassroots support so that Congress will suspend aid until Israel stops violating human rights and blocking the U.S. peace process.

In fact, CNI is leading the charge in Washington, D.C. to tell all Americans, the Congress and the national media about how our nation is being exploited for the purpose of propping up a terrorist regime.

With the demise of the cold war, the Middle East is the greatest threat to world peace. Your support of CNI will make the world a safer place for not only ourselves, but for generations to come.

Why not Mario for president?

By John Kling

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Political and economic conditions are moving in directions that can only be encouraging to New York Gov. Mario Cuomo as he considers whether to enter the 1992 U.S. presidential race.

Polls show president George Bush still popular but lagging, with growing anxiety about the nation's economy and increasing scepticism about government's ability to help the American middle class.

Many Americans also are ex-

pressing discontent with Mr. Bush's seeming preoccupation with foreign affairs and are looking for a president who has a good track record on domestic issues — say, a popular governor of a major state.

Add to the economic trends a late-starting Democratic race that has no clear front-runner and a field that many think lacks a candidate of the stature needed to defeat Mr. Bush.

There's more. Fund-raising has been tough for all six major Democratic candidates. It wouldn't be for Mr. Cuomo because of his New York base and national name recognition. And

with Jesse Jackson sitting out the race, Mr. Cuomo could appeal to many in Jackson's liberal coalition.

So, as they await Mr. Cuomo's decision on whether to run, which could come this week, many activists in both parties see all the reasons for a Cuomo run.

Still, because Mr. Cuomo is the subject, every prediction comes with a caveat.

"Any rational decision-making process puts Cuomo in under these circumstances," said John White, the former Democratic Party chairman. "But Cuomo is not going through what I would call a rational decision-making

process. I'm totally perplexed by this."

What Mr. Cuomo has been going through is a public debate — with himself — over whether he can run without hurting New York.

The governor on Monday dropped on hints about his plans but he touched on the themes that have many in the party hoping for a Cuomo candidacy.

"The president will not be able to deny the obvious evidence all around us, and that is that this economy is falling ever deeper," Mr. Cuomo said during an appearance in New York. "God helps those who help themselves."

Washington doesn't help anybody."

Mr. Cuomo's shadow has always loomed over the 1992 Democratic race and his presence became a cloud of sorts two weeks ago when he first said publicly that he was considering running.

Since then, several polls have shown Mr. Bush's support among voters slipping as unease about the economy increases. A recent Washington Post-ABC poll, for example, found just 37 per cent of respondents favoured Mr. Bush's handling of the economy and 51 per cent agreed that "we need a president who can set the

nation in a new direction."

John Marino, the New York state Democratic chairman, acknowledged that economic and political developments in recent weeks have been favourable to the governor but added that Mr. Cuomo has long believed Mr. Bush was vulnerable.

"It has become obvious to everyone recently that Republicans may have serious problems next year, but Mario Cuomo has believed this for some time," Mr. Marino said. "So this new information may well be interesting, but it doesn't change things as we have seen them."

New Projects to improve life in Wadi Mousa

Trust seeks to protect Petra's heritage

By Aileen Rannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

PETRA, capital of the Nabataean Kingdom until 106 A.D. and afterwards a centre of trade routes up till the seventh century, was virtually forgotten in history until finally rediscovered by a Swiss traveller in 1812.

Today, however, Petra is the most famous archaeological site in Jordan and registered as a World Heritage Site by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The entire greater Petra region in Wadi Mousa is a microcosm of human civilization. Remains from the Paleolithic, and Neolithic periods have been excavated. Hellenistic, Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine, early and middle Islamic, Crusader,

Ottoman and contemporary periods have enshrined it with a legacy of 2,000 years of human settlement and activity.

The rose-red city of Petra fascinates all its visitors. Tourists make it a point to see as much as they can of the city carved out of the rock, while Jordanians take pride that such a marvellous treasure of history is in their country.

The bad news is that time takes its toll, and the ancient monuments are endangered by natural and man-made hazards among which are: Erosion caused by natural elements; damage by seismic activity, vehicles, and environmental degradation due to insufficient services to handle the thousands of visitors every year.

Does anybody care? Fortunately, yes. A group

of Jordanians, who sincerely care and believe that Petra should be protected and preserved for the enjoyment and pride of present and future generations, have founded a society — The Petra National Trust.

Founding members of the Trust are Her Majesty Queen Noor, who is patron and honorary chairperson, His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid, Her Royal Highness Princess Majda Ra'ad, Dr. Rauf Abu Jaber, Mrs. Suha Shoman, Mr. Rami Khouri and many others.

Working closely with various concerned institutions, especially the Ministry of Tourism, the Department of Antiquities, Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan, the Petra National Trust (PNT) has embarked on a carefully studied plan with diverse aims, ranging from the preservation of antiquities to archaeological research and socio-economic development of the Wadi Mousa region.

Some of the work initiated by the PNT is already underway. The reason not many people have heard about the Trust is because the PNT has not publicised on a large scale... yet.

"We have planned for 1992 to be the year for the official fundraising and membership drive," PNT Executive Director Omar Hayek told the Jordan Times.

"There will be a planned local and international campaign to acquaint people with the diverse heritage and the contemporary concerns of the Petra region," Mr. Hayek said.

Currently, the PNT's funding depends on membership fees and donations from Jordanians and foreigners alike.

The most important single attribute that distinguishes the PNT is its interest not only in preserving the antiquities, but the entire culture and natural environment through the development of the Wadi Mousa region in general.

During the past year for example, tourism to Petra

came to a halt because of the Gulf crisis. The Trust initiated a fundraising campaign to provide temporary employment for over 150 Petra area families who were totally dependant on tourists for their income.

The PNT is trying to launch income-generating projects to benefit the residents of the Wadi Mousa region.

A project is now underway to renovate an old marketplace in the centre of Wadi Mousa and to turn it into a handicrafts and arts centre that would generate income for the residents and provide additional attractions for Jordanians and tourists alike.

The PNT has also helped secure government approval to divert 20 per cent of entrance fees at Petra to the Wadi Mousa municipality for use in local projects.

"In less than one year, Wadi Mousa will get an almost complete facelift. There will be dramatic changes," Mr. Hayek said.

The PNT is working closely with architects and planners to study the possibility of beautifying and preserving the character of Wadi Mousa and the main road to Petra. The Trust has also consulted the Ministry of Tourism to define an architectural code and standards which would apply to construction in the area to preserve the traditional character of the region.

Concerning the more urgent need of preserving the antiquities, a project is now underway to study the brittle Nubian sandstone of Petra which is in danger of erosion from natural elements, urban expansion and the effect of thousands of visitors each year.

"Heavy rains in 1989 caused part of the upper facade of the Palace Tomb to collapse. Therefore serious international effort is required to prevent future damage by the consolidation and preservation of the monuments," Mr. Hayek noted.

"We would like to see more serious interest from a professional-architectural perspective to protect the

vulnerable monuments," he added.

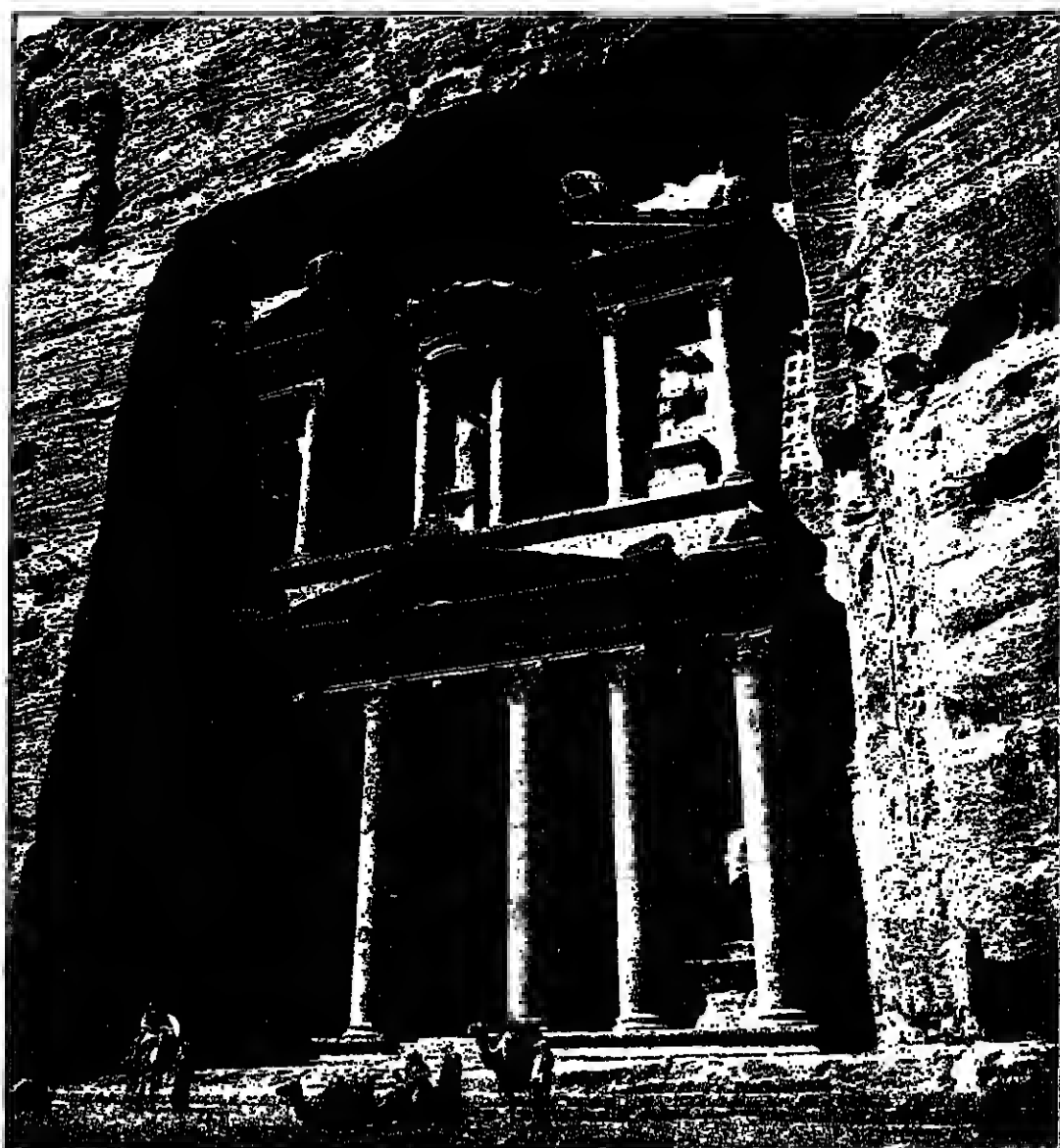
In this regard the PNT has already commissioned a preliminary study on options for consolidating or repaving the Siq — the crack between the rocks that leads to the old city. The PNT has also worked with the Department of Antiquities to prohibit cars from using the Siq, and a new road has been built leading into Petra from the Umm Saihoun area for use by service or emergency vehicles only.

Another project currently underway is a survey of the area surrounding Petra to preserve it as a national park, especially since excavations have shown archaeological remains from earlier periods.

The PNT, in cooperation with the Department of Land and Surveys and the Department of Antiquities, is conducting a survey after which a map will be prepared for rezoning and reorganising the area as a first step to transform it into the Petra National Park, Mr. Hayek said.

"Most of our work is coordination and cooperation with the various concerned organisations and institutions to ensure the development of the Wadi Mousa region, while preserving the antiquities and the historical and cultural heritage," Mr. Hayek pointed out.

The PNT, through the office of Her Majesty Queen Noor, is coordinating with UNESCO on the provision of



The Treasury at the rose-red city

technical aid to undertake a long-term masterplan study of the entire Petra region.

The study would serve as a basis for the long-term development of the region including the antiquities, the natural environment and tourism services.



Obelisk tomb at Petra

Babushka's burden —

taking care of the family

They spend endless hours shopping, cleaning, waiting in line. Grandmothers, or "babushkas," have shouldered the burden for years, and still do. The writer takes a look at how one "babushka" holds her family together.

By Wendy Sloane
The Associated Press

KIEV, USSR — Lydia Parra rises early to begin hours of food shopping for herself, her daughter and grandmother. Her only companion on the daily treks is a laminated cloth bag on wheels.

"Every day I leave the apartment at 8 a.m. to buy eggs, but there aren't any," said Lydia, 74, checking her babki, or cheese pie, in the oven.

When she goes to the crowded bread store, her daughter Lena, 41, is asleep on the pull-out couch in the living room. While Lydia waits in line to buy milk, her 18-year-old granddaughter, Lika, still snoozes in the bedroom the two of them share.

By the time she returns, both are gone: Lena, a divorcee, to her job teaching Russian to foreign students at the Civil Aviation Engineering Institute, and Lika to Kiev State University, where she studies English translation and Japanese.

At the end of the day, they

are tired and expect Lydia to have a home-cooked dinner ready.

"I do something around the house," Lena insisted, eating a weekend lunch of spicy fried eggplant and tomatoes with beef, which Lydia had prepared. "I made cookies once. They were delicious."

What were supposed to be Lydia's golden years are filled with the daily grind of making sure her family has enough to eat. As the economy continues to deteriorate and a harsh winter threatens, Lydia and other grandmothers keep their families going.

The grandmother, or babushka, often is the backbone of the household. Because most women must work to make family ends meet, only the babushka can spend the hours in line required to obtain the ingredients of a decent meal.

Most men refuse to do household chores and baby sitters are virtually unheard of in the Soviet Union. Many elderly women raise their

grandchildren, and sometimes their great-grandchildren as well.

It is not uncommon to see elderly women in their drab headscarves shuffling along the street carrying heavy, bulging sacks from a day's shopping.

Lydia, a heavyset former math teacher whose husband died nearly 10 years ago, has had two heart attacks in recent years and was hospitalised not long ago. In spite of her poor health, she still goes to the shops every day.

On one trip, she spent nearly one-fifth of her monthly pension for 11.7 kilograms (26 pounds) of potatoes, which she had to roll home in her wheeled bag. One night, she went out late to a subway station to give a package of butter and cheese to an acquaintance, who promised to deliver it to her 48-year-old son in Moscow.

"He told me it was hard to find butter there," she explained with a stoic shrug.

The daily quests are becoming even more difficult. The government raised prices drastically in April, tenfold for some ordinary items, and the family now buys nothing

but food and necessary books.

Because of a strict rationing system in the Ukraine, vouchers are needed to buy clothes, appliances, food and most other goods at state stores. Bread and milk are exceptions.

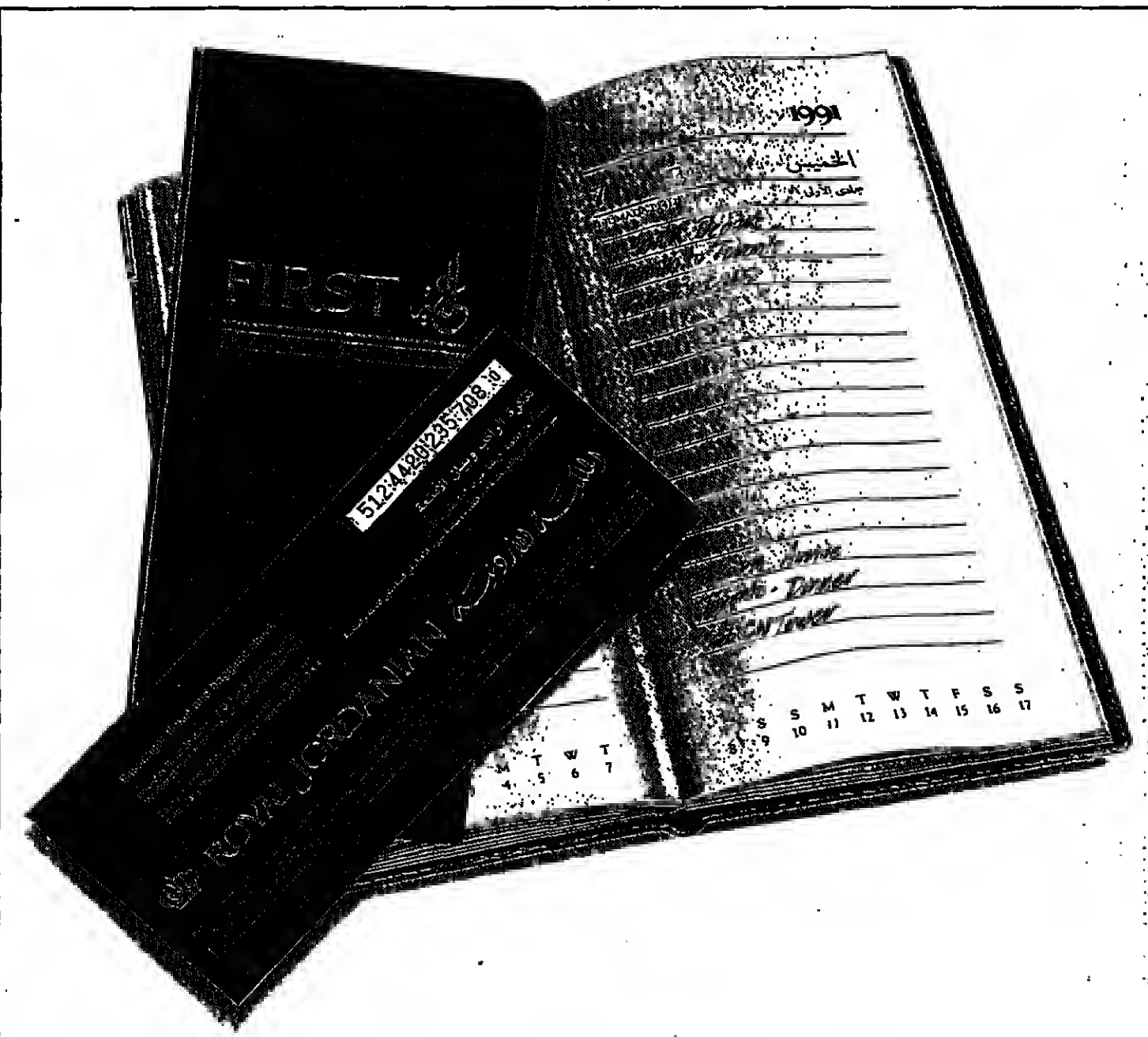
No ration coupons are required at farmers' markets and "commercial shops" owned by cooperative enterprises, but their prices are far too high for most people.

Lydia receives a monthly pension of 175 rubles, up from 65 rubles in April; Lena earns 420 rubles a month and Lika, gets a stipend of 150 rubles from the university. All receive the bright yellow ration vouchers.

The combined incomes are barely enough to live on.

Lena used to travel to Moscow often to visit friends she met while attending a language institute there, but now it's too expensive: About 40 rubles round-trip.

"I began to think, 'my God, I'll return, and what are they going to eat?'," she said. "I can't let mama or Lika eat only porridge just because I felt like travelling to Moscow."



TORONTO. SAME DAY

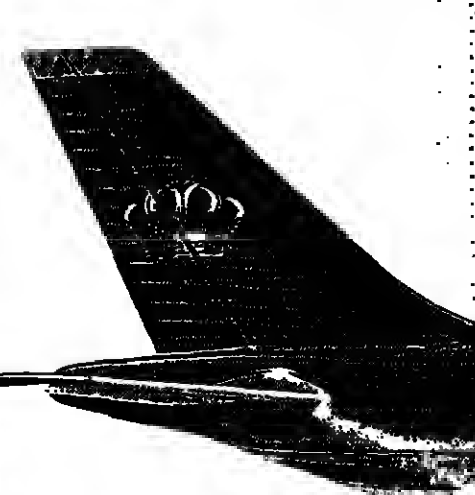
Now, Royal Jordanian flies direct from Amman to Toronto.

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Hairdressers

By Maha Addasi

Have you ever noticed how protective women are of their hair secrets. A woman could be at gun-point and the most she would admit to explain her newly acquired blonde strands would be, "the sun." If you press further, she would rather swallow a cyanide pill than tell you the truth.

And this applies to brands of hairsprays, cremes, and of course, the best kept secret, the hairdresser's name, which is the entire reason for secrecy.

Why? Well, it is not unusual that people have 'slight' communication problems with their hairdressers. At the slightest provocation as to ask for a trim, bolts of lightning illuminate the idea-zone of the hairdresser's brain who proceeds to tell you he or she has "just the hairstyle for you."

The result is often an unrecognisable being looking back at you from the mirror, such as a blonde with hair-texture competing with that of a broom's in place of a once-upon-a-time brunette with gleaming hair.

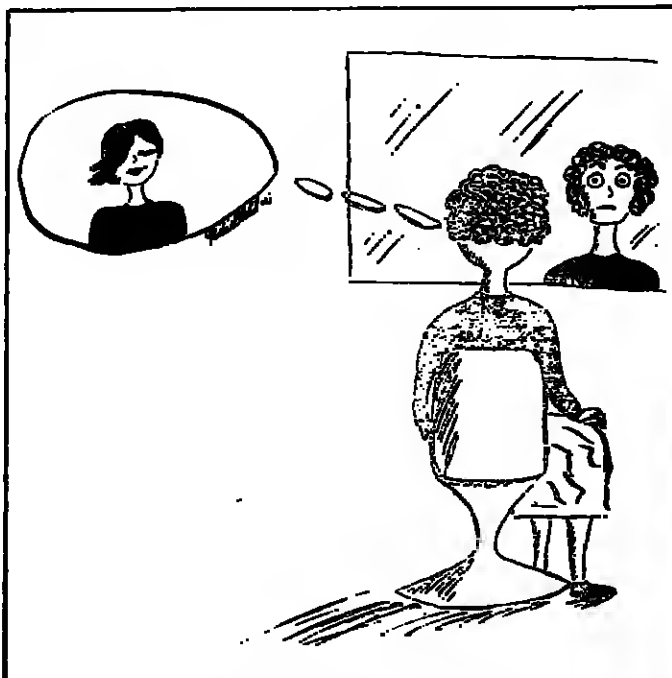
Most women go through periods during which they hunt for the "good" hairdresser, fully equipped with hats, scarfs, and brown paper bags to camouflage minor disaster, during the hunt. Don't expect them to hand you the hairdresser's name on a silver platter. You must locate the place, the "hard way."

Of course they do not come right out and refuse to give you the name of the hairdresser. They just seem to get memory lapses just when you ask them. They do, however, recall parts of the directions:

"It is located on the second right after the steepest hill in Amman." That's all you get. As for the rest of the information, you have to investigate on your own. Try and pinpoint who it is and you will get a stream of 1 don't knows.

"Is the hairdresser male or female," you ask shrewdly. "I don't know," comes the answer.

It may sound almost impossible to locate a place with



such little information, but according to one hairdresser, it can be done. "One customer's husband found me in 30 minutes flat, with a gun," he said. "But I swear I didn't know she was trying to spite him when she asked for her long, beautiful hair to 'go'."

But to those women who never seem to find a good hairdresser, do not despair because there is a solution. Just do what men do. They find a hairdresser; any hairdresser will do. And they train him to cut their hair the way they like it. And from hence forth, they readily and faithfully, cross the seven seas and climb the seven mountains to follow that hairdresser. Even if these mountains are the steepest in Amman.

November birthstone

THE TOPAZ

Family — Crystal of fluosilicate of aluminium.

Colour — Yellow-gold, honey-yellow, deep sherry, pale brown, and, rarely, pink, red, and blue.

Geographical sources — Australia, Brazil, Mexico, USSR and the United States of America.

Legendary background — The most likely origin of the name topaz is its derivation from the old Sanskrit word, *tapas*, meaning fire. In ancient times it was said to ward off epilepsy and asthma. As a cure for insomnia the stones were first steeped in water to make a drink. In the Middle Ages it was thought that a topaz placed in a bowl of boiling water would chill it on the instant — the opposite to the ruby which was believed to make water boil. Oscar Wilde described the colours of the topaz... "as yellow as the eyes of a tiger, topazes as pink as the eyes of a wood pigeon, and green topazes that are as the eyes of a cat."

Qualities — Faithfulness, true friendship, and loyalty.

Jewellery interpretations — The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, owned an ancient ring set with a topaz, and on it was inscribed a prophecy guaranteeing good luck to the wearer. In the early eighteenth century necklaces were in the form of a collar, with elaborate pendants, made of topaz ribbons and flowers. This gemstone was very popular in early Victorian times. Filigree was fashionable and pink topaz, combined with other stones like the green chrysolite, had settings of leaves, flowers and scallop shells, stamped from a light metal.

Today — A large square topaz or cut cabochon (dome), looks particularly arresting in a broad, polished gold setting.

Notable November birthdays — Martin Luther, Sir Winston Churchill

In the case of this particular birthstone, the CITRINE can be worn as an alternative. Precious topaz is seldom used in modern jewellery because of its increasing rarity.

Box full of wishes

By E. Yaghi

After the Friday prayer, the men congregated up on the roof of a drab gray house in which lived the groom. It was a nice October day where white whiffs of cotton candy clouds oozed across a pale sky. The last remnants of a fading moon lingered for a while as men bunched themselves in small groups around trays stacked with Mensaf (a tangy meat-topped rice dish) while the aroma of a cooked yoghurt sauce tempted their patience.

Inside the drab house, also gray and bare except for some bright hand sewn pictures, the groom's sister prepared her dress for the great event. "Ah," she sighed. "At last Nabeel is getting married. How wonderful. I'm so happy for him!"

She looked in her mirror and saw her dark coffee eyes staring back. "If only I could marry too. But who will ever choose one such as me? Yes, my hair shines. It's so black it almost looks dark blue and it is smooth and fine but here my beauty ends, for in contrast to my hair, I'm the hunchback of my neighbourhood. I'm deformed and no one cares how pure my heart may be. Instead, people turn away in disgust as though my shape were unforgivable and something of my doing!"

A tear escaped her dark eyes and somersaulted down her cheek onto the turquoise satin dress she hugged in her arms for comfort. "Mama taught us always to be brave and not care what other people think. If only Papa were alive to see Nabeel on his wedding day, he would be so proud. Dear Papa, I miss him so. He was one of few who loved me for my mind and heart!"

"Janeen," her mother called. "Didn't you finish dressing yet?" The women are coming soon and you must be ready. Hurry up!"

"Yes, mother, I'm coming. Don't worry!" Janeen yelled back and she hurried to slip on her fine looking dress that failed to conceal her deformity. She fantasized she was Cinderella going to the ball.

"If only I had a box full of wishes, then I'd first wish to be normal. Second, I'd wish I didn't have the voice of a child and the body of a freak!" She sighed again as she put her last touch of pink makeup on her doll like face.

She timidly opened the door of her room and peeked about then she tiptoed out all dressed in turquoise with matching shoes hunched over herself. Most of the women ignored her as they heaved and panted up long twisting rounds of stairs. She saw her brother Nabeel dressed in a black suit fidgeting nervously at the end of the hall. "How's my beautiful Janeen today?" he asked as she approached. "Happy for my wedding?"

She managed a sparkle in her clouded eyes and said, "Of course. I wish you all the bliss and joy in the world and only crave that there was a little to spare for me! But hurry now, the women are coming. Go up on the roof with the men until its time for you to go and get your bride!" And she shoofed him away and went to help her mother in the kitchen.

"There you are Janeen. Remember what I told you. Don't slouch around trying to hide. Be proud of yourself."

Your body is just a shell that covers what you really are. I don't want you hanging around me. Go and greet our guests. I want to hear music and hear you singing and see you dancing! Your brother's getting married and its no time for feeling sorry for yourself or long faces. Your sisters are already mixing with the guests. Go out and join them."

So she left the kitchen determined to make the best of her brother's wedding. She searched for her two sisters. She heard her sister Heyam singing and then saw her dancing with her other sister Randa. "Oh, Heyam looks so beautiful today. She is a Cinderella. But Randa's pathetic. Her hunchback which is less than mine is showing. How does she find the courage to act normal? At least Heyam isn't deformed like us."

Women got up and danced with the groom's sisters. They took turns. The older women, their robes decorated with intricate and colourful cross stitch, waved their headresses to the beat of a loud drum and twirled around lightfooted and cheerful. They were then replaced by younger girls who gyrated themselves in tune to songs as grins shyly spread on their faces. Heyam, the only normal sister, would dance for a while and then stop and clap, coaxing the other women to continue clapping and singing. Randa, less deformed than Janeen, danced for a while and then disappeared. Now, it was Janeen's turn. Heyam grabbed her arm and pulled her towards the middle of the circle. Janeen began to dance and pretend that she was the same as every one else. She almost believed herself until she saw two eyed little girls staring at her in astonishment, but she couldn't give up now, not just yet.

Her face grew red and she finally stopped for breath. She had now gained some confidence and roamed the room encouraging her audience to participate. She tried not to hear snickers of mocking laughter buzz behind her back. "They're not better than I," she said to herself. "I can't help how I am. If they can't accept me for what I am then I feel sorry for them."

One of the older women stood up and hugged her. "Come on," she said, "Let's go and get the bride!"

"No thanks," Janeen insisted, overwhelmed. "I'll wait here and stay with those who want to remain behind."

It was dark by the time honking taxis entered the narrow dirt street that led to Janeen's house. Out on the main road, young men sang and danced circles around the groom. Janeen limped up to the roof as fast as she could to catch a glimpse of her new sister-in-law and watch her brother as his friends hoisted him up on their shoulders. As the bride was part carried and part pushed by the wave of relatives that engulfed her, the bridal party wound its way up the narrow passage all the way to the drab roof which was to chair the host of onlookers. But at first Janeen's didn't see or hear the oncoming party. "If only I had a box full of wishes then I would wish to be normal, not a grotesque beast that people make fun of. I wish I could become somebody's bride too and live happily ever after," she whispered to herself as one tear slipped away from her clouded eyes and fell like a silver drop of dew on her soft satin turquoise dress which glittered under the glow of a smiling silent moon.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Nov. 7

1659 — Peace of the Pyrenees is reached between Spain and France.

1733 — Spain and France sign Treaty of Escurial and form alliance against England.

1807 — Russia breaks off relations with England.

1876 — Russia prepares for war against Turkey.

1920 — Serious famine breaks out in China.

1939 — Sovereigns of Belgium and Holland approach Britain's King George VI advocating peace with Germany.

1956 — British and French declare ceasefire in Egypt, but Britain says it will evacuate troops only on arrival of United Nations Emergency Force.

1966 — Chinese diplomats walk out of Bolshevik anniversary celebration in Moscow after hearing Soviet criticism of Peking government.

1973 — United States and Egypt announce they will resume diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors.

1975 — India's supreme court reverses Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's conviction on two electoral offences.

1981 — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Ustinov says USSR will never allow another nation to achieve military superiority.

1987 — Tunisia's President Habib Bourguiba is removed from office by his prime minister who says 84-year-old leader is too senile to rule.

1988 — Powerful earthquake just inside China's mountainous southern border kills 600 people.

1989 — Anti-Communist demonstrators, striking workers and clashes between police and protesters mar

Friday, Nov. 8

1519 — Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez reaches Mexico City.

1620 — Catholic League under Count Tilly Defeats army of Frederick of Bohemia at Battle of White Mountain near Prague.

1793 — Louvre Museum in Paris opens to public.

1880 — Civil war in Samoa begins.

1917 — Nikolai V. Lenin becomes chief commissar in Russia and Leon Trotsky is named premier.

1950 — First battle between jet planes as U.S. fighters are attacked by North Korean MIGs near Yalu River in Korean conflict.

1956 — U.N. General Assembly demands that Soviet troops withdraw from Hungary.

1959 — United Arab Republic and Sudan sign agreement on sharing Nile waters after construction of Aswan Dam.

1977 — Israel shells Palestinian bases in southern Lebanon.

1990 — President George Bush orders 200,000 more U.S. troops to Iraq; U.S. readies U.N. resolution that would authorise an attack on Iraq.

Saturday, Nov. 9

1937 — Japanese troops take Shanghai.

1938 — Bands of Nazis roam streets of Germany, burning and destroying Jewish synagogues, homes and stores.

Sunday, Nov. 10

1944 — It is disclosed that Germany is using a new weapon — a V-2 rocket — against England in World War II.

1956 — Baghdad Pact nations boycott Britain.

1962 — President of Yemen accuses Britain of plotting to overthrow regime.

1970 — Soviet Union releases two U.S. generals, their pilot and a Turkish officer whose plane strayed across Soviet border.

1973 — U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger arrives in Peking and gives assurance that United States is determined to complete normalisation of relations with China as soon as possible.

1975 — Angola becomes independence of Portugal in midst of civil war.

1976 — Syrian troops and tanker enter Beirut, Lebanon, without resistance under agreement for multinational Arab peacekeeping force.

Monday, Nov. 11

1918 — Armistice for World War I is signed between Allies and Germany.

Tuesday, Nov. 12

1927 — Leon Trotsky is expelled from Communist Party in Russia and Joseph Stalin becomes undisputed ruler.

1933 — Nazis dominate German elections.

1937 — Japanese troops occupy Chinese city of Shanghai.

1941 — Soviet troops halt Germans at outskirts of Moscow in World War II.

1948 — Japan's former Premier Hideki Tojo and other Japanese World War II leaders are sentenced to death.

1956 — Janos Kadar refuses to allow United Nations observers into Hungary; Sudan and Tunisia join United Nations.

1977 — Twenty-two nations open Arab League meeting in Tunis, and emphasis is on achieving solidarity.

1990 — Emperor Akihito ascends 2,600-year-old chrysanthemum throne in Japan.

The Associated Press

JTV Channel 2 Weekly Preview

Thursday, Nov. 7

8:30 The Simpsons.

The one-thousand dollar haircut medicine gives Mr. Simpson a totally different look, but not for long.
9:10 The Case Book Of Sherlock Holmes

The Disappearance Of Lady Frances Carfax

Dr. Watson's holiday encounter with the enigmatic Lady Frances brings Holmes rushing to the lake district just as she disappears.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of the Week

Dad

Starring: Jack Lemmon and Ted Danson

Loyalty and deep compassion are the best medicine to fight cancer and old age.

Friday, Nov. 8

8:30 Coach

Haiden resorts to lying to get a wealthy lady to donate; he almost has it made, but the dog ruins everything.

9:10 Shakespeare

King Lear

10:00 News In English

10:20 W.L.O.U.

Mother Nature's Son

The news director at Channel 2 is jailed for not revealing the name of the reporter who broadcast a story on police brutality.



Samantha (Alyssa Milano, left) Who's The Boss on Tuesday at and Mona (Katherine Helmond) in 8:30.

Saturday, Nov. 9

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Life On The Land

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

The Lookalike

Starring: Melissa Gilbert and Dianne Ladd

Sunday, Nov. 10

8:30 The Golden Girls

Great Expectation

9:10 Murder She Wrote

The Sins of Castle Cove

Mariam Howard, a young married woman, is found murdered at her apartment. Jessica investigates the murder.

10:00 News In English

10:20 This Man ... This Woman

Monday, Nov. 11

8:30 Hey Dad

9:10 Assignment

The Assignment team visits three nuclear plants .. two in Czechoslovakia and one in Bulgaria where safety records are not encouraging.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Gabriel's Fire

The Descent

Tuesday, Nov. 12

8:30 Who's The Boss

The Kid

Tony and Angela must decide if they are ready for the challenge of raising a child when Billy's grandmother can no longer care for him and asks Tony to take him in.

9:10 Our House

Fifth Beale

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

Wednesday, Nov. 13

8:30 Note And Allie

Young chip has a very big problem: How to bide the fact that he has failed his exams at school.

9:10 Cosmos

A personal Voyage

Harmony of the worlds

Carl Sagan talks about observations that were made in the 17th century which marked the beginning of the modern science of astronomy.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Equal Justice

The Price Of Justice

The price of justice is always high and its implementation is more important than appearing political personalities.

هنا من الصور

Ann-Margret at 50 — Popping her jaw and drying her eyes



Ann-Margret

By Dana Kennedy
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ann-Margret, who up until now has been seated in a dignified fashion, clad in an elegant black turban and matching pants and boots, leans forward and opens her mouth wide.

Pop silence. Crunch.

"Hear that?" Ann-Margret says and dissolves into gales of laughter. "That's my jaw."

That's her jaw in the aftermath of the near-fatal spill she took off a stage while performing in Lake Tahoe in 1972. She fell 22 feet (nearly 7 metres), breaking her jaw and leaving her face partly numb.

For anyone else, it would be a life-defining incident. But for Ann-Margret, it was all in a day's work — she was back on stage 10 weeks later. "My dad had terminal can-

cer and I was bound and determined to make him think I was going to be OK," she says. "So I got right back on stage even though I could barely move my mouth open at the time."

That kind of grit, however, has not been part of her public image.

She's been stuck with the tag "sex kitten" despite her enduring career as a singer, dancer and Academy Award-nominated actress. She's made 40 feature films. She's 50 years old now, and even though her dancer's discipline and prominent Swedish cheekbones have kept her looking young, the term "sex cat" would be more appropriate.

But on meeting her, the movie-magazine moniker fades fast. Though she's been a star for 30 years, Ann-Margret conducts herself as if she were your next-door neighbour.

"We're very reclusive," she says, describing the life she shares in Los Angeles with her husband and manager of 24 years, Roger Smith. "We don't go out a lot. We have friends we've had for 30 years. We have a smorgasbord every Christmas Eve. We lead a pretty normal life."

In the course of a rushed interview, barely 40 minutes, Ann-Margret will touch on subjects so diverse that some make her laugh and some make her cry.

Her co-stars have included many legends — Bette Davis, Jack Nicholson, Kirk Douglas, Bing Crosby and Steve McQueen. But when she remembers Elvis Presley, with whom she starred in Viva Las Vegas, or John Wayne, tears come to her eyes.

"Elvis and I saw each other for awhile," Ann-Margret says slowly. "Then we re-

mained friends for 14 years. I always knew his flowers because he sent them in the shape of a guitar."

She remembers Wayne for his flowers, too.

"He was so great to my parents," she says. "When daddy died, he sent a bouquet of flowers."

Ann-Margret is no professional wail. She does not wear her sensitivity on her sleeve. It's just there, mixed in with some steel.

"I can be very, very emotional," she says. "That's just who I am. And I never get over anyone's death. They live with me, in my heart."

On Oct. 22, Ann-Margret made her New York debut at Radio City Music Hall, the first place she visited as a six-year-old fresh from the tiny Swedish village of Valsjöbyn. Up until then, she had been reluctant to accept engagements in New York because they would have re-

quired her to be away from her family in California for too long a period of time.

Radio City was more than just another venue for her.

Bye Bye Birdie, the movie that made her a star, had its world premiere at Radio City in April 1963. People lined the street to see the film and it broke a 30-year music hall record.

"I took my parents to the premiere," she remembers. "We all looked up at the marquee with my name on it and there were tears in our eyes."

Her mother, now 72, was in the audience when Ann-Margret took the stage with 46 of her own dancers for the six-day show last week, as well as the Rockettes. The date was also her father's birthday. Her father died in 1973.

Smith, who has been accused in the past of exerting a

Svengali-like hold on his wife, was there as well. Smith starred in the TV series 77 Sunset Strip before giving up his acting career to manage Ann-Margret's career.

To hear her describe it, Smith is the brains and the brawn behind the artist, allowing Ann-Margret the luxury of nurturing a long career without having to fight a lot of battles.

But she's quick to point out that it's a partnership. Smith has myasthenia gravis, the same neuromuscular disease that caused the death of Aristotle Onassis. He's in remission now but his condition could change at any time.

Ann-Margret said her future plans all revolve around Smith's health.

"It's all up to him," she says. "It's very simple. He's my family and my family is all that matters. It makes it very simple."

Salsa music — Japan's latest hot export

By David Thurber
The Associated Press

TOKYO — When a New York agent first heard their demonstration tape, he refused to believe that a Japanese band could play salsa so well. Four years later, Orquesta de la Luz is attracting large audiences worldwide.

"Until recently, not many non-Spanish people played Latin music," said vocalist Carlos Kanno. "But it's a wonderful culture, and the music deserves to be played around the world."

The Japanese band's debut album went gold a month after its release last year in the United States, then went platinum. One track, Salsa Caliente Del Japon (Hot Salsa From Japan), topped the billboard Latin chart for 10 weeks.

And in such disparate venues as Tokyo, New York, Miami and numerous Latin American cities, the group is packing them in.

The triumph contrasts with the failure of most other Japanese music groups to make it big overseas — attributed by some to differences in musical tastes, by others to a lack of creativity in Japanese popular music.

The group's 12 congenial members also are credited with lifting salsa's contagious rhythms and driving percussion from obscurity to trendiness at home in Japan.

At a recent Tokyo concert, hundreds of fans pressed against the stage as powerful lead vocalist Nora exuberantly sang Salsa No Tiene Frontera (Salsa Has No Borders). "Don't be surprised that we're Japanese," she sings in

Spanish. "There are no borders, no barriers. This music is for all."

Several band members say they became interested in salsa after Latin percussionist Tito Puente visited Japan in 1979 and lectured on Latin jazz. Puente, an idol for the group, plays on one song on their second album.

After it formed in 1984, the band began playing at small Japanese clubs. "But we couldn't get anyone to come," Kanno said. "There were times when there were more people in the band than in the audience."

They saved money for years to pay their way to New York, home of salsa — literally "sauce," a danceable blend of Latin music styles — and first played a tiny club in Queens.

"We had tourist visas, so

we couldn't take any instruments with us when we left Japan. We showed up at the club an hour before the concert with no instruments. The promoter was shocked," Kanno recalled.

They managed to borrow old instruments, including a keyboard with peeling keys, pianist Satoru Shionoya said.

"The audience looked as if it didn't know what to expect," he remembered. "I thought we would be booed off the stage. But with the first note, the audience was on its feet, cheering. We couldn't believe it."

With typical Japanese precision, the four-man percussion section keeps the audience moving with complex rhythms, balanced by a smooth four-man brass line.

All the members, especially clear-voiced Nora, convey

a love for their adopted music.

"They're doing excellently for being Japanese and for the short time they've been together," Latin jazz percussionist Poncho Sanchez said on a recent tour in Japan.

"For a long time, when salsa was popular elsewhere in the world, it wasn't here. But things have changed in the past year. Orquesta de la Luz has helped a lot," he said. "Still, they're going to have to live the music a little more."

Band members are glad more Japanese are becoming salsa fans, but want the music to be more than a passing trend.

"In Japan, music is fashion, and salsa has become a current fashion," Kanno said. "Japanese still don't decide by themselves

what kind of music they really like, and instead have their tastes formed by the media."

But that's beginning to change, he said.

Other Japanese salsa bands are sprouting up, and they also hope their music will affect Japanese society by introducing it to Latin culture, in which music is more a part of everyday life.

"In Japan there aren't many amateur bands that continue playing together just for enjoyment. We want to create that kind of culture," said Yuzo Suenaga, a post office worker who plays with the group Cuba Libre.

"We've been lucky," Kanno said. "We can always play overseas if salsa loses popularity in Japan."

"But we think it's important to live in Japan and play our music here."

Gregory Peck makes 56th film

By Hillel Italie
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Gregory Peck began making films, the old studio system was breaking down and an actor's image depended as much on his own instincts as on the judgment of a studio boss.

It came naturally to Peck, whose stage work in college had transformed him from a shy teenager to a confident young adult. He was only six when his parents split up and by the time he arrived in Hollywood in the early 1940s, he had learned to make all the important decisions by himself.

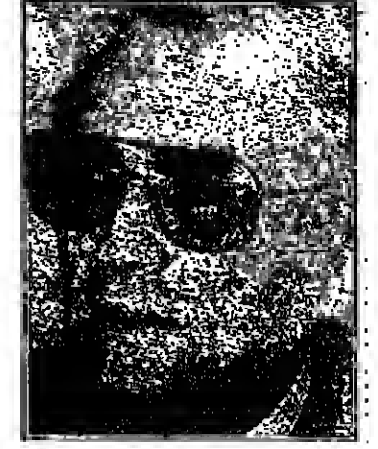
"Maybe I had an indifferent, stubborn streak which may have come from an instinct for self-preservation and the knowledge I was going to have to do it on my own, nobody was going to help me," Peck explained during a recent interview.

"I was never owned by anybody. I never signed an exclusive contract. I was pretty much a free-lance player. I can take some of the credit for the successes and a lot of the blame for the failures. I never thought anybody was shaping me or creating an image."

But the parts he settled on quickly formed a pattern: The earnest missionary of his second film, *The Keys of the Kingdom*, the crusading journalist of *Gentleman's Agreement*, the kindly farmer of *The Yearling*.

He tried playing bad guys, in *DUEL IN THE SUN*, as Captain Ahab in *Moby Dick* and, more recently, as a Nazi in *The Boys From Brazil*. But the public liked him best when he stood for something good, when he atoned for his violent past in *The Gunfighter* or faced down a lynch mob in *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Peck has that stature now.



Gregory Peck

"It's easier to be a type guy," he insisted, "because the script does so much for you, because it informs the audience and the other characters that when you come on you're going to do something intimidating, threatening, scary, terrorising maybe."

"I don't mean to defend my way of working against any other way, but in my point of view it's harder to make the good guy interesting. He's liable to be dull unless you invest a lot of feeling in it. Maybe I was successful in those parts because I was able to make an emotional identification. Well, it ain't over yet."

Tall and silver-haired, with dark, imposing eyebrows, the 75-year-old Peck is perhaps more handsome now than in his days as a leading man. He looked well in gray slacks and a dark blue blazer. His face has filled out without obscuring the lean, smooth features of his youth.

His new film, his 56th, is *Other People's Money*, and if it had been made 50 years ago the part of kindly company executive Jorgenson might have been filled by Walter Huston or Lionel Barrymore, veteran actors whose presence communicated warmth and integrity.

Peck has that stature now.

Berlin's cult cabaret adapts to united Germany

By Mark Heinrich
Reuters

BERLIN — It used to enjoy underground fame for dodging Communist censors with metaphorical skills like "the people's listen and look company," code for the security police no one dared lampoon by name.

In a new era of free speech, the Distel Cabaret Theatre has bolstered its satirical salvoes with real names, facts and a lot more research. And it's paid off — shows are once again sold out and full of laughs, like the Distel of old.

Steeped in a Berlin burlesque tradition immortalised by the Hollywood movie "Cabaret," the Distel (Thisle) has evolved from a careful twerker of east German Communist orthodoxy to a withering critic of the follies of German unification.

"In two hours at the Distel you can learn more about this

growing together of (east and west) Germans than by reading the best newspapers," Distel Theatre director Gisela Oechelshaeuser said in an interview with Reuters.

"We speak to all of Germany today but from the perspective of our roots as east Germans," she said of the ensemble that has performed in a shabby little theatre opposite east Berlin's Friedrichstrasse Railway Station since 1953.

"Our goal is to give Ossies (east Germans) the spirit to face the burden of their past and the challenge of the future," added Ms. Oechelshaeuser, 48, a 25-year cabaret veteran whose politics are, like most east German artists, left-liberal.

Buoyed by tours of West German cities and television appearances, the Distel has begun its maiden season as a privatised company to rave

reviews. Special shows are planned in London and Oxford, England in late November.

The Distel is one of the few east German cultural institutions to flourish after unification. Homegrown theatre, moviemaking and media, shorn of subsidies, have been shattered by an influx of Western competitors.

An apt title for the Distel's new programme, spoken in thick working-class Berlin accents, might be "Post-Unification Blues." Excerpts from topical numbers, with choice one-liners:

— Economic collapse in east Germany. "The only thing we produce any more is dismal statistics."

— East German attitudes towards employment. "In the old days my buddy and I were conscientious objectors. We refused to work."

— East Germans desper-

ately trying to shed their socialist skin. East German wife to husband's west German mentor: "Will it be enough if he throws out his 36 volumes of Marx-Engels works?"

— East Germans as second-class citizens. Two prostitutes wait in west Berlin grumbling why they get paid only 60 per cent of what their western sisters command.

East Germany's 1989 democratic revolution, which spawned unification, forced sweeping changes in the Distel's act.

After years of being able to stage up to 400 shows with the same script, the Distel suddenly had to rework its material almost daily to keep pace with the dizzying tumult of events and preserve its credibility.

"Everything said on stage could now be read in newspapers. We had to do much more homework," said Ms.

Oechelshaeuser.

Distel attendance sank as east Germans' attentions turned to material survival in a new competitive world.

Financially pressed as state subsidies evaporated, the Distel slashed an inflated staff of writers, actors, musicians, singers and technicians from 65 to 20 raised ticket prices.

The audience gradually trickled back.

"Sixty per cent are Wessies (west Germans) now. And we've recovered Ossi fans who realise they are cheating themselves if they shut out their own culture. Plus, tickets are sold at cut rates to the unemployed," Ms. Oechelshaeuser said.

Under Communist rule, the Distel survived as "licensed court jesters," as British author John Ardash put it, only because its audience was tiny — mainly party

officials, intellectuals and privileged foreigners like diplomats.

It was barred from television and tickets were hard to get.

Party culture officials vetted scripts in advance. But Ms. Oechelshaeuser said actors could confound the censor with clever figurative wordplays and improvised body language.

"We were forbidden to be direct. But actors and audience all knew the daily lies (imposed by ideology). Life here was play-acting on a grand scale, so we had great fun bamboozling the censor," Ms. Oechelshaeuser recalled.

One memorable sketch in early 1989 dealt with growing popular pressure for western travel. It had actors going on tour to the west with a secret police minder who ended up having to play the rear end of a pantomime horse.

'Biggest-ever' Rembrandt exhibit also shows what's not a Rembrandt

By Larry Thorson
The Associated Press

BERLIN — The Rembrandt experts speak and, around the world, owners of Rembrandt paintings tremble. Some change labels, but others resist.

The process called "de-attributing" Rembrandts began in the 1930s. It gained new attention in September, with the opening in Berlin of a major exhibition of works by the 17th century Dutch master.

"We show the whole Rembrandt," said Jan Kelch, a ranking curator of the German National Museums in Berlin. "I think it's the big-

gest exhibition ever held on Rembrandt."

After Berlin, the exhibit will be seen in Amsterdam and London. It includes nearly 50 certified Rembrandts and more than 30 paintings ascribed to members of the master's workshop, some signed with his name.

Six Rembrandts each are from the national Gallery in London, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and Berlin's National collection. There are loans from 32 other museums and private collectors.

Queen Elizabeth II of Britain sent two Rembrandts and a painting that was considered a Rembrandt until

1986, when it was attributed to Isak Jouderville.

"Losing" a Rembrandt is a blow to the art world and the public.

For years, people take friends and relatives to see the star of the local museum, to admire the master's touch with light and shade, the tender feelings that glimmer from dark canvases.

Then the experts say Rembrandt's signature was put on a painting done by Gerbrand Van Den Eckhout or someone else working for the real master, Rembrandt Harmensz Van Rijn.

What to do, curse the art experts? Start loving Rembrandt's pupils?

At least, the exhibition "Rembrandt and his workshop" shows how it happens.

The art institute in Chicago, for instance, was given a painting in 1894 called the Young woman At An Open Half-Door. It is signed Rembrandt and sometimes was thought to depict one of the two women who lived with the painter after his wife died in 1642.

Its authenticity came into question in the 1960s. The Chicago Museum withdrew the Rembrandt label several years ago and lent the painting to the Berlin exhibition to be shown as a work of Samuel Van Hoogstraten, a pupil of the master.

"We of course had to inform the lenders in advance and convince them of the loss of attribution," Mr. Kelch said. "Most were convinced. The exception was Stuttgart."

The Staatsgalerie in the southern German city has a red-toned self-portrait labeled Rembrandt, but Mr. Kelch and his colleagues believe it was painted by Aert De Gelder, the master's last pupil.

"It's a pity we couldn't have this painting," for the exhibit, Mr. Kelch said. "All (major) students of Rembrandt are represented except De Gelder. ...the gallery in Stuttgart still is convinced

it is a Rembrandt.

Christian Von Holst, deputy director of the Stuttgart Gallery, said in a telephone interview: "In Stuttgart, it is a Rembrandt."

Von Holst said the way art historians determine attribution could change. An artist's body of work may shrink under assault by the experts, he said. "Then comes" a new generation of art historians, and they say, "you were too strict."

In 1986, art lovers in Berlin were shocked by Mr. Kelch's decision to remove the Rembrandt label from *The Man In A Golden Helmet*.

The painting is the main attraction of Part II of the

exhibit, about members of Rembrandt's workshop. Accompanying it is a long explanation of how de-attribution followed analysis of style and scientific research.

X-ray techniques can reveal dark pigments in the underpainting, showing how a work was altered, redesigned and built in stages. These are invisible signs of an artist's style that help the experts decide the identity of the painter.

Like the Chicago painting, many former Rembrandts were signed with his name. Mr. Kelch said those who commissioned the canvases probably knew they weren't getting the master's work.

"It was normal in the 17th century," he said. "He was like others who had huge workshops with pupils who learned his style, worked for a while in his style and were engaged in huge production of Rembrandt paintings. It had to do with the great popularity of Rembrandt in his lifetime."

Mr. Kelch said he expected the Rembrandt research project in Amsterdam to reduce the number of confirmed Rembrandt paintings eventually to about 240.

It's a big drop from the 740 cited in a 1921 Rembrandt catalogue, he said, "but it is a lot, compared with other artists."

AIDS America — 100 deaths a day and the pace is quickening

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Ten years into the AIDS epidemic, the figures are all bad and getting worse. AIDS now kills more than 100 Americans a day. By 1993, the death toll is predicted to top 300 a day.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United States accounts for almost half the cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), reported worldwide since the disease entered medical history in 1981.

Relative to size of population, the United States has almost nine times the incidence of AIDS as Britain and three times that of France. In the first decade of

AIDS, the disease killed 120,000 Americans — more than the Korean and Vietnam wars combined. Experts say the next decade is bound to be worse even if there were not a single new case of infection from now on.

The Centres for Disease Control (CDC) estimate that at least one million Americans have been infected to date with the AIDS-causing HIV virus that strips the body of its immune defences.

The alarming speed with which AIDS is spreading in the United States and worldwide has been spotlighted by two unrelated but equally grim reports by the National Commission on AIDS, a bipartisan body set up in 1988, and the WHO in Geneva.

Monitoring the relentless march of AIDS across the

globe, the WHO said that 163 countries had reported a total of 418,403 cases of AIDS in the past 10 years. The United States accounted for 191,601 cases.

The second-highest total — 21,719 — cases was reported from Uganda. Brazil had 19,361, the highest in Latin America. France had 15,534 cases, the most in Europe.

The U.S. National Commission combined a bleak assessment of the prospects of slowing down the spread of AIDS with blistering criticism of the health system, government apathy and American attitudes towards the disease.

Efforts to prevent the spread of AIDS and provide care for those who already had it, the commission noted, were hampered by "two des-

tructive attitudes within our borders ...

"They are a thinly veiled feeling that those who acquire the virus are getting what they deserve and a collective indifference to their fate."

The commission deplored what it termed "the innocent/guilty mindset" of Americans who hold little sympathy for the largest group of AIDS sufferers: Homosexual men who contracted the disease through anal intercourse and drug addicts infected by sharing contaminated needles.

"There has been a dominant undercurrent of hostility towards many people with HIV disease ...," the commission noted.

Public opinion polls show that such views are slowly changing. In 1987, a Gallup survey showed that 42 per

cent of the population thought AIDS was punishment for a decline in moral standards. This year, only 34 per cent said they thought so.

Similarly, in 1987 almost half those interviewed thought most people with AIDS had only themselves to blame. Today, only a third say they think this way.

The "innocent/guilty mindset" has been spotlighted by huge outpourings of public sympathy for AIDS victims who did not contract the disease sexual contact or drug use.

A few years ago, Ryan White, a teenager infected through a blood transfusion, captured national attention. More recently, the plight of Kimberly Bergalis, a Florida woman who contracted the disease from her dentist,

transfixed millions of Americans.

So weakened in the final stage of AIDS that she could barely speak, Ms. Bergalis appeared before a congressional committee to testify in favour of a bill that would require surgeons, dentists and other health professionals to be tested for the HIV virus.

"AIDS is a terrible disease that we must take seriously," Ms. Bergalis said. "I didn't do anything wrong but I'm being made to suffer for this." The inference could be drawn: Other AIDS sufferers did something wrong.

U.S. medical organisations, including the American Dental Association, oppose mandatory tests or restrictions because they say the risk of a patient being in-

fectured by a health worker is minimal.

The Bergalis case was the only known doctor-patient transmission. Health experts say it diverted attention from the main issues in the AIDS crisis.

According to the AIDS commission, these include the absence of a national AIDS plan and the social and economic ills which have turned parts of U.S. cities into slums that rival those of the Third World.

The commission noted that a disproportionate number of AIDS sufferers are black, Hispanic and poor. While black Americans make up 12 per cent of the population, for example, they account for 28 per cent of AIDS cases.

"The epidemic is widening most rapidly among poor people in inner cities — a

group that historically has had difficulty in gaining access to and finding payment for primary care services," the commission noted.

Unlike most other developed countries, the United States has neither a cabinet-level AIDS strategy nor universal health care. Some 37 million Americans have no health insurance at all.

In the face of this, there is growing criticism of the Bush administration for lack of resolve to tackle the crisis.

A New York Times editorial said: "Several decades ago, (President) Franklin D. Roosevelt roused a generation of Americans to fight polio, a scourge to which he himself had fallen victim. Today, faced with an even worse epidemic, President Bush is shockingly mute."

Sceptics urge caution on laser surgery as alternative to eyeglasses

By Lee Siegel

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California — Some doctors say laser-beam eye surgery may let millions of nearsighted people throw away eyeglasses or contact lenses. But critics argue the procedure's safety and effectiveness will remain questionable for years.

Laser light already is widely and legitimately used for eye surgery to control glaucoma; treat injury or diabetes damage to the retina; and clear the haze that can form around artificial lens implants.

But controversy surrounds the use of Excimer lasers to correct mild to moderate myopia, or nearsightedness. The outpatient surgery, named Photorefractive

Keratotomy or PRK, uses an Excimer laser beam to vaporise thin layers of tissue off the centre of the cornea.

The cornea is the transparent covering that, with the lens, helps focus light on the retina, or back of the eye. Nearsightedness can be corrected because the surgery flattens the cornea so it properly focuses light on the retina.

George Waring, an ophthalmologist at Emory University in Atlanta, said the surgery allows 85 per cent to 90 per cent of patients who get it to discard their glasses or contact lenses. The rest still must wear glasses. A few suffer insignificant or temporary side effects, he said.

Critics say it's safer to wear glasses or contacts. They worry about side effects, in-

cluding creation of a grey haze in the eye that can slightly impair vision, at least temporarily, and a "night halo" effect in which a few patients see halos around lights.

Doctors on both sides said the operation's long-term effectiveness in correcting nearsightedness remains unknown because the first U.S. operation was performed only two years ago. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is not expected to approve widespread use until at least mid-1994.

Nevertheless, 7,000 to 10,000 people worldwide — including about 1,000 Americans — already have undergone the surgery, said Dr. Carmen Puliafito, ophthalmology chairman at Tufts University in Boston.

Some 60 million to 70 million Americans are nearsighted, and 80 per cent of them have mild and moderate nearsightedness that could be corrected with laser surgery, Dr. Waring said.

Sceptics say it's too soon to tell how effective the process is.

"This procedure is still in its infancy," said Scott MacCrae, an ophthalmologist at Oregon Health Science University and a consultant to the FDA. "We need a good half-decade to see what the surgery really does in terms of effectiveness and safety."

Because laser myopia surgery doesn't weaken the eyeball, it may prove safer than radial Keratotomy, the nearsightedness operation in which the surgeon uses a knife to reshape the cornea

with a starburst-pattern of incisions.

Laser surgery for nearsightedness will cost about \$800 to \$1,500 per eye, about the same as radial Keratotomy, Dr. Waring said. That could prove cheaper than glasses or contact lenses in the long run.

Many eye doctors level identical criticism at laser surgery and radial Kerato-

tomy: Why cut or zap your eyeballs to treat nearsightedness that can be easily corrected with glasses or contact lenses.

"Having this done in your eyes to get rid of your glasses is nonsense," said Tom L. Johnson, an Oklahoma City ophthalmologist. "Why take a healthy myopic eye and expose it to surgery?"

Dr. Waring says the risks of the surgery are minimal, although it may increase the need for reading glasses when patients reach age 45.

In the latest trials at Emory, 90 per cent of nearsighted patients who underwent laser surgery had vision that improved to at least 20-40 — the acuity needed to pass a driver's licence test — while half improved to 20-20. Dr.

Keith Thompson said at the Atlanta conference.

Doctors don't yet know if they can repeat the laser operation on patients for whom an initial operation fails to adequately correct nearsightedness.

The laser-treated cornea occasionally gets hazy as it tries to heal, so vision can get slightly worse, even with glasses, in some patients.

Improved artificial eye implants move like real eyeballs

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California — Artificial eyeballs that move like real ones have been implanted in 4,000 people and may help many people embarrassed by odd movements of traditional fake eyes, experts say.

Patients who receive the new implants risk suffering complications, including a chance the device will get infected, tend to move outward and therefore require removal.

But doctors expect that as they implant more of the new artificial eyeballs, the complication rate will be the same as for traditional implants.

The new implants have 90 per cent of the movement of real eyes, compared with an average of 25 per cent of normal movement for older types, according to the

American Academy of Ophthalmology.

The improved artificial eye was discussed recently during the academy's 95th annual meeting.

About 4 million Americans have lost an eye due to injury, infection or other disease, according to the eye doctors' group. Each year, at least 10,000 Americans lose an eye.

There are three types of artificial eyes. Each consists of an implant or artificial eyeball that is surgically placed in the eye socket and is never seen, and a removable plastic shell designed to look like a natural eye. All three types use a similar shell.

The newest type of implant is made of sea coral treated with heat and chemicals so it becomes the same mineral as human bone. Eye socket muscles and blood vessels grow into the implant. Six months after surgery, a hole is drilled into the implant and

a peg is used to attach the shell to the implant, allowing almost completely normal movement.

The traditional implant is a sphere of plastic or silicon rubber. The shell placed over it is not directly connected to the implant, so the fake eye's limited movement depends on muscles that control the eyelids and eye socket.

Another type of implant is similar, but has bumps that fit into dimples on the shell, allowing movement that is better than traditional implants but not as good as the newest model.

The coral implant probably will become "the standard way to rehabilitate the person who has lost an eye," said Arthur C. Perry, a La Jolla ophthalmologist who invented the new implant and licensed integrated orbital implants to manufacture it. He is the privately held company's medical director and

receives royalties.

Jordan Archer of San Diego had her traditional artificial eye replaced with the improved kind of implant in 1989.

"It's 100 per cent better," said Mrs. Archer, who lost her left eye because of damage caused by diabetes. She said that until she received the moveable eye, people often would ask her, "gee, what's the matter with your eye?"

"As anyone with a traditional implant will tell you, the artificial eye's conspicuous lack of movement is a very real stigma," said Dr. Michael A. Callahan, a University of Alabama at Birmingham eye specialist. "Other people stare or they look away. This causes some real psychological suffering."

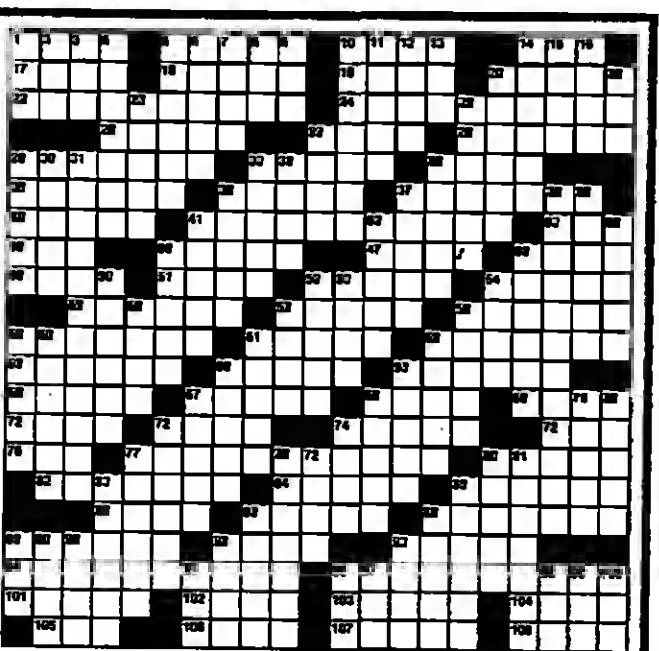
The improved fake eye first was implanted in a human in 1985 and gained U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval in 1989.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

NOVEL PEOPLE
By Arthur S. Verdesca

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19 Infinitive
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25 Put down heavily
27 Do sketches
28 Ancient catapult
29 Bewilder
32 "Sweet Rose"
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34 Above
35 Pajama garment
36 Laissez-faire
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40 Aims
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42 "I am you"
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44 Satchel's
45 Estelle's fish
47 Moved steadily
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22 "Oklahoma" aunt
23 Stashed
27 Mild oath
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29 "Ben Jonson"
30 Cooper's hat
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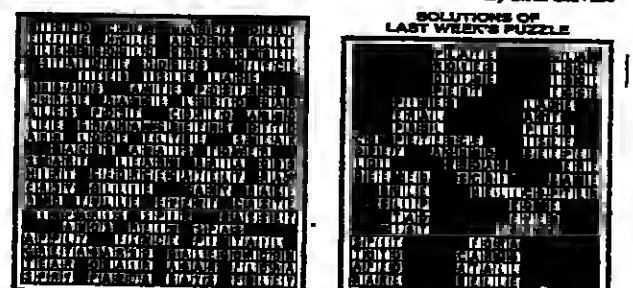
Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Cute tabernacle shows newscaster to seat at concert.
2. Today's sunny's plain play shows cost far more than room's fancy dance.
3. Bold truth, woefully crushed, will rise once again, baring desperate fate in its path.
4. On topoff, cool raids auto chop shop and arrests four perpetrators.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. DE MA BARCAPY HU ABB AIBN PDESKA
BLDES BLDE DP JUT RUB UCE JUYN, MA
MUCKY PHOBIA BU YAOBL. —By Frank N. Stein
2. ZYXWVUTSBEQ PONZO SYM BSLM KW
KQJNT RSJX QDUYV PUTLQSYM MSQX UT
SYM VOMXY. —By Barbara J. Ratz
3. ABCD EFG BEJKLM DEJKLMN ADPC PCFP
BPF AQFF, SEMQP BBSNCJCD TEL
LETCLSCS LE TCL BCS LETCLSCS
QTQND. —By Philip Brannen
4. ZYXWVUTS BE-FYON PVETP OVQZQPC
BQZMWUEBETP ZYXPVO "ZYXWVUTS"
PTVNX BVQZTS. —By Rita Salvo

- ACROSS
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3 Not to be done
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5 Legislative group
6 Sail support
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Suicide doctor says patients should be allowed 'civil right' to end their lives

By Josh Lemieux
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY — Society should allow suffering patients to end their lives as a civil right, said a doctor who last week helped two disabled women commit suicide.

"Finally our society is beginning to address the last of the great civil rights issues," Dr. Jack Kevorkian said in a telephone address Friday to a conference here.

"None of the critics have really focused on one of the most important elements of this debate — and that is an individual's right to make a final decision," Dr. Kevorkian said.

Dr. Kevorkian, speaking publicly for the first time since assisting in the Oct. 23 suicides of Michigan residents Sherry Miller and Mar-

jorie Wantz, likened medical ethics in the United States to the ethics of Nazi doctors.

"The Nazi laws in the '30s made doctors do what they should not have done," he said. "Our civilisation is equally culpable because we have equally immoral laws which, on the contrary, force doctors not to do what they should be doing."

Thirty-one states, including Missouri, have laws against doctor-assisted suicide, and the American Medical Association (AMA) opposes the practice.

Critics say Dr. Kevorkian's views could lead to unregulated killing of people whose mental competence could be questioned.

Dr. Kevorkian's comments were carried over loudspeakers at a conference sponsored by free inquiry, a secular humanist magazine. He took no questions and did not dis-

cuss the recent suicides, which are being investigated by prosecutors in Michigan.

Last year, Dr. Kevorkian helped Janet Adkins, diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, commit suicide in his van with his so-called suicide machine. First-degree murder charges brought against him were later dropped.

Ms. Miller, 43, had multiple sclerosis. Ms. Wantz, 58, suffered from a painful — but not terminal — disease that required 10 pelvic operations.

Dr. Kevorkian's lawyer, Geoffrey Fieger, had shielded his client from public appearances since the women killed themselves in a remote cabin north of Detroit. Ms. Wantz used a suicide device similar to what Ms. Adkins used. Miller breathed carbon monoxide fumes.

Dr. Jack Kevorkian

King, Arafat review outcome of talks

(Continued from page 1)

He said that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will, in the coming stage, be split into Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli wings with each wing having its own agenda, but coordination will continue between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides on all issues.

Mr. Sharif condemned Israel's continued settlement in the occupied territories, including a new settlement inaugurated on Monday in the Golan Heights.

All Arab parties are extremely concerned at the continuation of the settlements because if you continue you are making a farce, a comedy of the whole peace process," he said.

"You cannot talk about land for peace when the land is being nibbled by the other side," he added, in a reference to U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 which form the basis of the peace talks.

In the coming stage of the talks the question of settlements will be seriously discussed because the issue is of paramount importance and should be given priority, the minister said.

Mr. Arafat said on arrival Tuesday that the first round of

bilateral talks between Arab delegations and Israel in the Middle East peace conference were successful.

"The results of the first round of negotiations in Madrid were successful in general from the Arab and Palestinian perspective," Mr. Arafat told reporters in an arrival statement.

Mr. Arafat said during his stay in Jordan, he would assess the outcome of the Madrid talks with King Hussein and coordinate future stages of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

A PLO official said Mr. Arafat and King Hussein will form several joint committees entrusted with maintaining close coordination between the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Jordanian government and the PLO.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the PLO official said the committees, ranging from political to information, will direct the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation during all stages of negotiations with Israel.

"All decisions will be made by King Hussein and Arafat and will be relayed to the joint negotiating team through these committees," the PLO official said.

Delegation returns from Madrid

(Continued from page 1)

and that we are challenging them internationally on moral and political basis," said the professor of English literature.

Dr. Ashrawi predicted that eventually, the negotiations would lead to something positive after what she described as a "long and hard political battle" and with the continued support of the rest of the world.

"Always challenge, always stand up for your rights and always prepare your case very well," Dr. Ashrawi stressed.

"And I think we are capable of doing it."

The Palestinian spokeswoman described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's speech at the Madrid conference as a "maximalist position," which she said was common Israeli policy. But she insisted that the "big no" should never be taken for granted and that it must be challenged. "This is what we have learned from the intifada," she commented.

"We have international law and legitimacy on our side. We have rights on our side. We also have lots of support — you would be amazed at the support we have, not just from the co-sponsors and the European countries, but tremendous Arab support and solidarity," Dr. Ashrawi said, adding that with hard work and dedication, "we are going to get somewhere."

A Palestinian delegate, Sa'eb Erekat, described the Madrid

conference as a "very important step, but at the same time it is a very small step."

Dr. Erekat, professor of political science, told reporters that the Madrid conference was "only one centimetre in a road that is 100 kilometres long."

The outspoken professor, who caused an Israeli uproar when he declared on an American television network before the convening of the conference that the Palestinian delegation was appointed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said that pressure on Israel was essential for it to stop building its settlements in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

He added that the world could keep asking the Jewish state to stop building new settlements but that they would not respond in kind.

"If they have the money, they will continue to build settlements, if they don't have the money, they won't build the settlements. It's as simple as that," Dr. Erekat said.

Israel built a new settlement on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights on Monday, soon after the opening of the Madrid conference.

"I wonder how you can talk about peace and negotiating peace while obstacles are being built everyday," Dr. Erekat said. "And if Israel is going to be treated like a country above the laws of man, we have no hope for peace."

Baker rebukes Israel for settlement

(Continued from page 1)

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, who used the occasion to attack the Madrid talks as a failure.

Mr. Baker said he was optimistic that Israel and at least one of the Arab countries would reach agreement on a venue for further talks. It was unlikely that would be Syria, Israel's staunch foe which proved the most reluctant to engage in negotiations.

"We'll be talking with these countries and we'll be talking with the parties to see if they can make progress," Mr. Baker said. "If there's no agreement... we

will feel free to submit proposals" on a site for future talks.

President George Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev, joint sponsors of the peace conference, were in Madrid last week to get the talks off the ground. Mr. Baker remained until Sunday, working with the parties to help set up bilateral sessions between Israel and the various Arab countries, including the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Baker said the United States would be willing, if invited by the Middle East parties, to participate in their talks.

Camp refugees show cautious optimism over Madrid talks

'The right of all to return would be total justice'

By Mariam Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After 43 years of uninterrupted tension and conflict Palestinians and Israelis sat at a negotiating table as equals for the first time last week in Madrid. Under the guise of the new world order, the Palestinians, political analysts predict, will get back some of the land that was taken from them by the Israelis once the negotiations are finalized in a year or two from now.

For many Palestinians however, a negotiated settlement which will bring the West Bank, Gaza and possibly parts of Jerusalem back under Arab rule is a partial justice and one that in all likelihood will exclude them.

For the 2.5 million registered Palestinian refugees, the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem is not home. Their homes, for which many still have deeds and keys, are in Jaffa, Haifa, Acre and other cities, towns and villages in the parts of Palestine that became Israel in 1947 and were occupied by Israel in 1948.

To them, the talks in Madrid were not unwelcome; return of parts of Palestine is better than nothing, they say; partial justice is better than none.

But they fear for their own future, they wonder if they will ever be given the opportunity to use the "right of return" guaranteed to them by the United Nations or if, as one woman said, "We will be refugees forever."

Just outside Amman, in the Baqaa refugee camp, the atmosphere is "guarded." The 120,000 residents of this squalid camp are all refugees or descendants of refugees from 1947-48.

Despite the mention of the right of return by the head of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, during his opening speech in Madrid last week, these 2.5 million people have been given little or no hope of return by the ongoing peace negotiations.

Kifah, a 22-year-old student and resident of the Baqaa camp, explains that his family as all others in the camp are two time refugees. "My family fled the Jaffa area in 1947 and

fled the refugee camp where we lived in Jericho in 1967," he said. "We are not against a negotiated settlement if it brings justice, but if it is just a cloak of oppression and denial of rights, then we are not interested," Kifah said in a nervous voice. "Some people will be able to return if they make peace with Israel, but we will still be refugees," said Kifah convinced that the 1948 refugee issue would not be addressed.

While prior to the Madrid meeting many camp residents had said they did not believe that a land for peace settlement could occur, they felt that the United States had clearly shown at the conference that they would put increasing pressure on Israel to comply with a land for peace solution.

Kifah fervently watched the speeches and contacts in Madrid, on television, as had all of the people in Baqaa, but he said that hope was not a word he wanted to use just yet.

"Shamir was very tough in his speech. I think the Israelis are going to be very tough and give us very little," Kifah said.

Kifah's mother Nawal, 43, believes that the Israelis will be intransigent. "The Arabs will feel as if they had achieved something if they get even a small sliver of land," she said.

But the intransigence of the Israelis is harsh reality for the Palestinians and many of the camp residents now feel that they may be losers in peace just as they had been losers in war. "Our situation right now is not one of power and to the right of return may not be pressed for, but there will be no lasting solution for the Palestinians if the right of the 1947-48 refugees is not addressed," Kifah explained.

"We are not interested in the balance of power," says Mahmoud, 21, another student. "We are interested in justice and justice says that if millions of Jews from all over the world have a right to settle in mandated Palestine, then we, most certainly, have that right as well," says Mahmoud.

"Justice also says, that we stole nothing from anyone and yet we are treated like criminals, while those who broke the ten

commandments by stealing and killing are rewarded with billions of dollars in aid," he adds. If a Palestinian state were to be established in the West Bank and Gaza, Kifah says he would like to go to Jericho to live where other Palestine refugees of 1948 had lived from 1948 to 1967. "It is part of Palestine and it is closer to home," he said.

Kifah said that the camp people were pleased with the Palestinian delegation and the Coordinating Committee's efforts in Madrid. They were "good," he said, mentioning Dr. Abdul Shafi and Dr. Ashrawi in particular. "They showed the world that we are good, educated people who can speak the language of peace."

The attack on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa had also been welcomed by the camp people. "He spoke the truth when he said that Shamir was a terrorist."

Going home

Feelings of uncertainty exist in other refugee camps as well. Two hundred thousand refugees are registered at the Hussein refugee camp, in the centre of Amman. About one third of the refugees are originally from the city of Lydda, where the Israelis built their national airport after terrorising the population into leaving and destroying the town in 1948.

Many of the refugees have been here since 1948 and insist that justice for them should mean going home. "I have nothing in the West Bank," said Siham Jouini, a mother of ten and a resident of the camp since she was 6 months old. "I will be very happy if there will be a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, but that does not solve my problem. I want to go home. I want to go home to L.O.d.," Siham said.

"What will happen to us, where will we go, will we be refugees till the end of time?" she asked.

Compensation instead of repatriation, says Siham, is not acceptable. She still remembers the sight of refugee tents as she grew up in the first camp in Jordan and believes that the Palestinian people should accept nothing less than total justice.

Asked to define total justice, Siham explains that "the right of all to return would be total justice." She stopped short of saying that she would take Israeli citizenship to return to



Happy children of 1948 refugees play in the Hussein camp. Their parents, all refugees from

Lod, do not seem to live in an equally carefree and happy atmosphere (Photo by Mariam M. Shabin)



L.O.d., but said she would live as a Palestinian national in L.O.d. under Israeli rule.

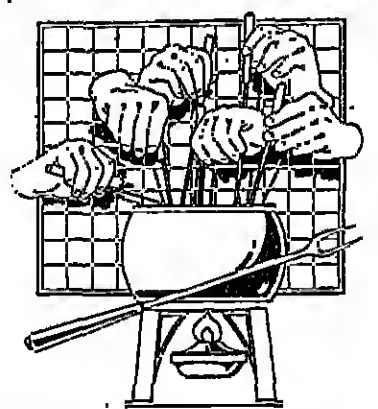
While no one has offered such an option to the 1948 Palestinian refugees, the issue is one of major proportions in light of the fact that half the Palestinians in the world are registered refugees and are thus from the part of Palestine that became Israel in 1947-48.

The refugees fear that the Palestinian state would become dependent on others for protection since the evident wish of the United States is to have a total disarmament of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

"If they will not allow Palestinians to carry arms, they must also disarm the Israelis; what guarantee will we have that the Israelis will not massacre us as they have in the past?" asked Siham.

Siham and other camp residents praised the Palestinian delegation to Madrid. "Hanan was really good," said Siham with pride, talking about Dr. Ashrawi.

But Siham said she would not move to the West Bank to live. "Why should I? My home is L.O.d. and if I leave this camp, it will only be to go home."

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Date: 5/11/1991	Tel Aviv Date: 6/11/1991
Sterling Pound	1.7730	1.7690
Deutsche Mark	1.6386	1.6427
Swiss Franc	1.4450	1.4496
French Franc	5.6020	5.6180
Japanese Yen	130.00	129.90
European Currency Unit	1.2480	1.2452

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.93	5.06	5.00	5.16
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.31	10.25	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.43	9.43	9.43
Swiss Franc	7.81	8.25	8.18	8.12
French Franc	9.09	9.18	9.25	9.28
Japanese Yen	6.25	6.18	5.87	5.62
European Currency Unit	9.46	9.81	9.81	9.81

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	354.55	6.85	Silver	4.07	0.09

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6840	0.6860
Sterling Pound	1.2083	1.2143
Deutsche Mark	0.4158	0.4179
Swiss Franc	0.4714	0.4736
French Franc	0.1216	0.1222
Japanese Yen	0.5252	0.5276
Dutch Guilder	0.3689	0.3707
Swedish Krona	0.1140	0.1146
Italian Lira	0.0555	0.0558
Belgian Franc	0.02019	0.02029

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.7950
Lebanese Lira	0.0774	0.0780
Saudi Riyal	0.1821	0.1831
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1855	0.1865
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7510	1.7610
UAE Dirham	0.1855	0.1865
Greek Drachma	0.3497	0.3528
Cypriot Pound	1.4770	1.4920

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	4/11/1991 Close	5/11/1991 Close
All-Share	124.49	124.33
Banking Sector	105.07	104.99
Insurance Sector	126.43	126.16
Industry Sector	154.07	153.81
Services Sector	132.10	131.92

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7750/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1229/34	Canadian dollar
	1.6375/85	Deutsche marks
	1.8450/60	Dutch guilders
	1.4478/85	Swiss francs
	33.71/75	Belgian francs
	5.5925/75	French francs
	1226/1227	Italian lire
	129.75/85	Japanese yen
	5.9800/50	Swedish crowns
	6.4230/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.3560/3610	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	353.90/354.40	U.S. dollars

Big U.S. banks drop lending rates

Federal Reserve lowers discount rate to 4.5%

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve (Fed) Board Wednesday slashed its key bank lending rate from 5.0 per cent to 4.5 per cent, the lowest level in 18 years and the fifth such move since December designed to ensure the U.S. economy's escape from recession.

"Action was taken against the background of sluggish expansion of the monetary and credit aggregates in an environment of abating inflationary pressures," the announcement said.

The reduction, in part, also realigns the discount rate with other short-term market rates," it added.

The discount rate is the interest the Federal Reserve charges commercial banks for loans. Such a move usually results in lower interest on other loans, including consumer credit, and thus stimulates spending and economic growth.

The vote to lower the discount rate was 4-1, with Federal Reserve Governor Wayne Angell voting no.

The move followed by a day a meeting of Federal Open Market Committee, the central bank's monetary policy-making arm. Many analysts expected the committee to approve a further reduction in the federal funds rate as well.

The Federal Reserve on Oct. 30 had permitted the federal funds rate to fall to five per cent from 5.25 per cent. But the reduction in the benchmark discount rate Wednesday was considered an even more dramatic signal that the central bank intends to battle economic weakness with easier credit.

Many analysts have expressed concern over the continuing sluggish nature of the recovery, some even fearing the possibility of a "double-dip" recession in which the economy turns down again after a brief rebound.

The decline was the fifth since Dec. 18, when the rate was lowered to 6.5 per cent from seven per cent, and dropped the rate to the lowest level since Jan. 15, 1973, when it was raised from 4.5 per cent to five per cent.

Each time the Federal Reserve lowered the discount rate since December, the move was accompanied by a drop in the federal funds rate, the interest banks

charge each other for overnight loans.

The Federal Reserve board controls the discount rate, while the Federal Open Market Committee sets the targets for the federal funds rate.

Federal Reserve policy is aimed at ensuring economic growth while avoiding inflation. During the late 1980s, when inflation was a threat, the bank boosted interest rates to slow price increase.

But as inflation slowed and higher interest rates took their toll on economic growth, the central bank began lowering the funds rate in mid-1989, trying to guide the economy into what became known as a "soft landing," rather than crashing into an actual downturn.

Still, after months of fits and starts, the economy fell into recession in July 1990. And as it grew weaker after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait the following month, the Federal Reserve let rates fall faster.

When the Federal Reserve lowered the discount rate to 6.5 per cent last December, it was the first such move in more than four years. As economic weakness persisted, the bank pushed the rate down to six per cent on Feb. 1 and to 5.5 per cent on April 30 and to five per cent on Sept. 18.

The prime rate accompanied several of the Federal Reserve discount rate moves, falling from 9.5 per cent to 9.0 per cent on Feb. 1, to 8.5 per cent on May 1 and to eight per cent on Sept. 13. Banks use this important interest rate to calculate a range of other loan rates including some types of mortgages.

Shortly after the Fed announcement major banks moved to lower their prime lending rates Wednesday a half percentage point to 7.5 per cent, the fifth decline in five years and the lowest level in years.

J.P. Morgan and Co. was the first to announce the prime rate cut, effective immediately. It was closely followed by BankAmerica Corp., Manufacturers Hanover Corp., Chemical Bank Corp., First Chicago Corp. and Citicorp.

Other major commercial banks were expected to follow the move, which lowers the cost of borrowing money to millions of ordinary bank customers and

businesses.

The bond market, an important barometer of economic and interest rate trends, rallied on the news. The U.S. Treasury's 30-year bond rose about \$5 per \$1,000 face value in early trading.

The prime rate reflects a bank's costs of borrowing money, including interest it pays on savings accounts or certificates of deposit, and trails more subtle increases in other interest rates.

This rate is important because bankers use it as a basis for calculating loans to businesses and for determining many types of fixed and adjustable-rate consumer loans.

Frank Barkocy, senior vice president and bank analyst for Advest Inc., said the cut in the prime and discount rates were welcome but doubted they would help jumpstart the economy, which has been languishing since this summer.

"I just wonder how much of a stimuli we might see in the economy from a prime rate cut," Mr. Barkocy said.

Problems with loans and foreclosed real estate continue to haunt many of the nation's banks, leading bankers to severely curtail lending as they rebuild their balance sheets. It's questionable whether they will be more willing to make loans regardless of the interest-rate level.

President Bush said Tuesday that cutting taxes to try to stimulate the economy would send interest rates "right out through the roof."

Mr. Bush, who has been vacillating on whether to send Congress a new package to spur economic growth, said he still hasn't made up his mind. But he told reporters in a White House picture-taking session:

"What I don't want to do is come up with a growth package that just further burdens the American taxpayer. And I'm not going to do that."

Referring to the crop of tax-cut proposals that have sprouted on Capitol Hill, Mr. Bush said, "some of these suggestions that shoot the long-term interest rates right out through the roof are simply unacceptable. I'm talking about the idea of getting broad tax cuts without regard as to what it does to long-term interest rates or the (1990) budget agreement."

Western firms keen to start manufacturing in Gulf Arab countries

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Western firms flocking to a post-Gulf war trade exhibition say they want to set up manufacturing plants in the region to cash in on business interest sparked by the conflict.

About 1,000 exhibitors are taking part in a "Rebuild Kuwait" exhibition in Bahrain. Many are newcomers to the Gulf.

Businessmen who knew little about the region before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August last year — especially those from the United States and Canada — say they are planning export drives to the region.

Others hoped to set up manufacturing plants with Gulf partners to export to global markets. They are being urged on by Gulf states anxious to diversify their economies away from oil.

Cheap energy, transport, feedstock and labour imported from Asia and the Far East — coupled with lower taxes than in Europe and North America — are the main attractions.

"There are a number of people who did not know the area prior to the crisis and now see it as a potential market," Alan Brisco, president of the Toronto-based Denison International group of companies told Reuters.

"Most see it as a place to come and sell something. But I think it has more industrial capacity than most people realise — Saudi Arabia in particular," he added.

Mr. Brisco said one of the firms under the Denison umbrella was negotiating with Saudi contacts to set up a plant to produce steel industrial ladders in the kingdom's Eastern Province.

The company, International Health Safety and Environmental INC, was also planning two plants in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — one to produce a type of "superwood" made from processed garbage and another to make oil absorption sponges from the petrochemical polypropylene.

"We're looking to export from here to markets outside the Gulf... the Far East, Europe and Pacific rim," he said.

Ronald Anderson, executive director of the Hardwoods Development Council of Pennsylvania, said he was doing market research for 5,000 small firms interested in exporting to the Gulf or setting up assembly plants for furniture and cabinets.

"Since the war a lot of our companies have said they're thinking about doing business in this market," he said.

Norman Hahn, president of the Pennsylvania firm Conestoga Wood Specialties, said he was negotiating to set up an assembly plant in Saudi Arabia.

"We think there are a lot of opportunities here," said Mr. Hahn, on his first trip to the Middle East.

Many Western exhibitors said U.S. and British involvement in the allied campaign which drove Iraq from Kuwait in February had helped smoothed their path into Gulf markets.

"There's no question in my mind that since the war some Gulf countries have actually eased regulations for foreign companies to do business in this area," Jerred Peebles, director of

the Sacramento-based Arab American Business Alliance said.

Firms from 40 countries are participating in the six-day show which opened in Bahrain Saturday. Despite the theme, most exhibitors said they had met few Kuwaiti businessmen and were seeking business contacts from the whole area.

"My impression from the first two days is that maybe we ought to set up in Saudi Arabia," Kenneth Parslow, managing director of U.K. firm Isotemp Ductwork Ltd. said.

Mr. Parslow, visiting the Middle East for the first time, said he was interested in launching a plant for air conditioning ducts in the kingdom because the price of steel was 30 per cent lower than in Britain.

Theodore Gentile, North American sales manager for the Minnesota-based firm Daneco, said it was bidding for a \$15-30 million contract from Kuwait's Organic Fertiliser Company to build a large compost plant serving Kuwait City.

Three joint venture plants using Daneco's "green" technology in the UAE were now competing for garbage which they processed into organic fertiliser for farmers in the area, he said.

"In the U.S. we wouldn't be doing this without a lot of regulation — here people do it because it's profitable and serves an environmental concern at the same time," he said.

"It's much easier to do business here because procedure requirements are more simple and less expensive," he added.

immediately and the national bank would buy up the cash for local currency at a rate resulting from the unifying of the present clumsy two-tier exchange system.

"Romania can get access to foreign resources only if it proves its commitment to a market economy," Mr. Stoilajan said in a hard-hitting state-of-the-economy speech.

"The only such way is unification of the exchange rate and the internal convertibility of the lei," he said. "The two-tier exchange rate aggravates inflationary pressure in the economy."

Until now the lei was quoted at an official rate of 60 per dollar. In an interbank market, launched last February as a step towards convertibility, it has recently fluctuated between 260 and 300.

On the black market the rate was less favourable than the bank rates but Romanians often preferred to change money illegally rather than queue in banks.

Mr. Stoilajan said the central bank would merge official and interbank rates and the new float-

Romania announces currency convertibility in free market move

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian Prime Minister Theodor Stoilajan Wednesday announced a bold shake-up of the currency exchange system in a bid to rescue the country from economic collapse and draw it closer to a free market.

The measures, which include the introduction of currency convertibility and a freeze on some hard currency accounts, are a signal to world financial bodies that Romania is breaking definitively with four decades of communist central planning.

Mr. Stoilajan announced the shake-up to parliament after a year in which industrial and farm output, foreign trade, and financial reserves all plummeted, prices tripled and energy stocks reached disastrously low levels.

It was his first major policy initiative since taking office last month after prime minister Petre Roman was forced from power by anti-reform riots.

Mr. Stoilajan said the hard currency bank accounts of state-owned firms would be frozen

ing rate would be "at an economically sustainable level" somewhere between the two.

He said the future exchange rate would be set through an enlarged daily interbank auction market and that the lei would be the sole currency for payments on Romanian territory.

Individual citizens would be free to change money only at authorised banks or exchange offices.

Mr. Stoilajan cited statistics showing the economy was in dire straits.

In 1989 — the last year of communist rule — Romania had a trade surplus of \$2.4 billion. Last year it recorded a deficit of \$1.8 billion. For the first nine months of 1991, the deficit was \$1.2 billion.

He also listed figures showing Romania had only secured a small fraction of the energy it needed for winter because of the fall in export revenues, which was aggravated by the two-tier exchange rate.

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A service of remembrance will be held at the Church of the Redeemer on Sunday, Nov. 10, 1991 at 6:00 p.m.

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Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd. announces that the closing date of Tender No. 18F/91, (for the supply of two calcining drums) have been extended until 12 hours local time Saturday Nov. 30, 1991.

Wasef Azar
Managing Director

Announcement From The Ministry Of Water And Irrigation Water Authority

Contracts 26/91 Through 45/91

Further to the announcement published on 12/10/1991 concerning the issuance of the above mentioned contracts financed by the World Bank Loan No. 3306 JO. The Water Authority draws the attention of all bidders and embassies who have obtained the Tender Documents that new amendments were issued and could be collected from the Tenders Division/Water Authority's main building in Amman.

Eng. Mutazz Beibelsi
Secretary General
Water Authority

Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420

Adel Imam in **SHAMS AL ZANATI (Arabic)**

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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Starring 'Abu Awwad Family' After the great success it achieved continues its shows daily at 8:30 p.m.
Please buy your tickets in advance

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Serbia accuses Croatia of 2nd attack on its territory

BELGRADE (R) — Serbia accused the rival Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Wednesday of mounting a second attack on its territory in a new blow to peace hopes after talks with the European Community (EC) broke up without agreement.

Tanjug News Agency said 10 grenades fell on Apatin, a town of 15,000 people on the Serbian side of the Danube River border between the two republics, shortly before midnight Tuesday.

Three houses were damaged but no one was hurt, it said. It was the second attack on the Serbian town of Vukovar late Tuesday. The Croatian towns of Karlovac and Osijek also came under fire overnight.

Fighting has raged in Croatia since many of its 600,000 Serbians took up arms to oppose its declaration of independence from Yugoslavia on June 25.

Croatia, a republic of 4.5 million people, says more than 2,500 Croats and an unknown number of Serbs and federal soldiers have been killed since June.

Croatia has denied responsibility for the attack on Sid. It has not commented on the Apatin attack.

On Tuesday, the latest peace talks with the community in the Hague broke up after Serbia rejected for the third time an EC peace plan to group the six

to their economic strength, have decided to realise the domination they earlier aspired to through wars, are in question," Mr. Zelenovic said.

"What happened in Sid and last night in Apatin is also an organised approach of Croatian fascists who are in the service of the above-mentioned countries," Tanjug quoted him as saying.

Croatian Radio said the federal army attacked the nearby Danube town of Vukovar late Tuesday. The Croatian towns of Karlovac and Osijek also came under fire overnight.

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On Tuesday, the latest peace talks with the community in the Hague broke up after Serbia rejected for the third time an EC peace plan to group the six

Yugoslav republics in a looser alliance, spelling the end of the Yugoslav state created in 1918.

The four other republics refused to make amendments to a plan suggested by Serbia and its ally Montenegro allowing Serbs in Croatia and in their territories to be united with Serbia and other republics wishing to remain in a single state.

Britain's Lord Carrington, the chairman of the EC talks, said the warring sides had agreed to order a 12th ceasefire since fighting began but he was doubtful if it would hold.

"Given the failure of previous ceasefires, I am not sanguine that this latest attempt will succeed where others have failed," he told a news conference.

Serbia now faces the prospect of EC economic sanctions for rejecting the plan.

But Lord Carrington said in a radio interview that sanctions were unlikely to end the fighting.

"The problem we have... is that we don't really have any sanctions. We don't have any weapons with which we can stop this," he said.

Cyrus Vance, a former U.S. secretary of state, arrived in Belgrade Tuesday for a one-day visit

as the personal envoy of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"Vance expressed the profound concern of the international community at the escalation of the Yugoslav crisis," Tanjug said after he met Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar.

Mr. Vance is also due to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic and Federal Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic.

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Tuesday that if European Community peace efforts in Yugoslavia failed, Croatian independence would have to be recognised as a result.

"I am full of doubt that this (EC-brokered) plan can succeed," Mr. Kohl said during a panel discussion with students in the east German university town of Jena.

He commented that the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav army, fighting to prevent the Croatian Republic's breakaway from the multi-ethnic Yugoslav Federation, seemed to have accepted the control of political authorities.

Rescue workers used municipal trucks to ferry the bodies 50 at a time to the local cemetery where residents dug common graves for those not identified or claimed by relatives.

"There's at least 2,000 dead here," estimated Maria Victoria Locsin, mayor of Ormoc, some 560 kilometres south east of Manila.

Corpses were covered with sheets and straw mats. Some were piled up in wooden boxes.

Residents said strong winds hurled cars down the streets and some were blown into the sea.

Funeral parlours in the town were overflowing with bodies, and local officials appealed to the government to send supplies of formalin to smother the stench of the corpses.

Mr. Osmena appealed for extra coffins.

The death toll across the central Philippine islands of Leyte and Negros was estimated by relief officials in the Leyte capital of Tacloban at more than 2,260.

At least 700,000 people were affected by the disaster, the worst flooding to hit the Philippines in seven years, and more than 50,000 were made homeless.

"We expect more reports of casualties to come in. Rescue operations are being hampered by lack of electricity," said Colonel Orville Gabuna, regional police commander based in Tacloban.

Parliament voted 236-96 to allow Mr. Fokins to sign the economic treaty provisionally. After that, it will then be submitted to the lawmakers for ratification.

The Ukraine abstained when eight republics signed the treaty on Oct. 18 to create a common market.

But its participation — as well as that of Moldova, which said Tuesday that it would sign — leaves only Georgia and Azerbaijan out of the pact.

Lawmakers in the increasingly independent Ukraine — the agricultural and industrial powerhouse of the Soviet Union — expressed concern that the treaty left too much power in the hands of the central government.

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Floods kill 2,200 in Philippines

ORMOC, Philippines (R) — Huge floods and landslides triggered by tropical storm Thelma killed at least 2,260 people and destroyed thousands of homes across the central Philippines, relief officials said Wednesday.

Bodies of children drowned in water up to 10 feet (three metres) deep lay in the streets of the worst-hit town of Ormoc, where local officials said at least 2,000 people died when the storm hit Tuesday, deluging farms and villages.

Corpses were piled on every street of the town on Leyte Island.

"People are walking around like zombies. Everyone has a death in the family," said Cebu Governor Emilio Osmena, who flew down to inspect the devastation across the town of 120,000 people.

Rescue workers used municipal trucks to ferry the bodies 50 at a time to the local cemetery where residents dug common graves for those not identified or claimed by relatives.

"There's at least 2,000 dead here," estimated Maria Victoria Locsin, mayor of Ormoc, some 560 kilometres south east of Manila.

Corpses were covered with sheets and straw mats. Some were piled up in wooden boxes.

Residents said strong winds hurled cars down the streets and some were blown into the sea.

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NATO to unveil new strategy at Rome summit

ROME (R) — NATO leaders will unveil a new strategy at a landmark summit which starts Thursday, pledging major changes in the Western alliance's military forces and offering formal ties to their cold war enemies for the first time.

The Rome summit, almost exactly two years after the Berlin Wall was opened, will chart a new course for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) now that the Soviet-backed military threat to the West has collapsed.

"The summit will open a new chapter in the history of the alliance, a time for genuine peace and partnership," U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Tuesday.

The 16-nation alliance's new strategy, replacing a document that is 25 years old, no longer talks of a threat to the West and promises close cooperation with the Soviet Union and other members of the former Warsaw Pact to build security in Europe.

NATO leaders will offer to hold regular meetings of foreign ministers with those countries and the newly-independent Baltic states — the first of them next month in Brussels — to discuss military and security issues.

But they will not offer security guarantees for any form of membership to Eastern European nations like Hungary and Czechoslovakia, which are worried about turmoil in the Soviet Union and other economic and social problems.

NATO argues that it will remain "an anchor of stability" for Europe, and that such guarantees are unnecessary, despite the fact that some Eastern European nations have requested them.

NATO diplomats say the two-day summit will also help resolve some disagreements among member nations and it will make a strong commitment that the United States, the alliance's senior member, should remain involved in European security.

The trans-Atlantic link is vital to NATO, but it has come under strain recently. There is growing pressure in the United States to slash defence spending and make deeper cuts in the U.S. troops presence in Europe than planned.

Washington currently expects to halve this to around 150,000.

Some European NATO allies, led by France, have also worried Washington and countries like Britain with plans to set up forces more independent of the alliance, perhaps run by the European Community (EC) as it takes a bigger role on the world stage.

But France, which resents U.S. leadership of NATO and has long been at odds with its allies, has signed up to most of the new strategy — for the first time since it left the alliance's military structure in 1965.

"The task for the summit will be a fine balancing act of solving the old quarrels with the French while convincing the United States that this is still a worthwhile alliance," one senior NATO diplomat told Reuters.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl sought to reassure Washington Wednesday that Germany remained a loyal ally despite the fact that it supported Paris in moves to create a European force.

"A united Europe is in the long run unthinkable without a common European defence," Mr. Kohl told parliament. "This is neither an expression of doubt of the stability of the Atlantic alliance, nor an attempt to create a competing body."

The controversial question of European defence is the only issue that could provoke a row at the summit, but alliance officials say it will probably not be taken any further ahead of an EC summit in the Netherlands next month.

NATO's new strategy says the West still faces risks from instability in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, the Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East.

It says the alliance will slash both conventional and nuclear forces, reducing the role that simply preparing for war as the alliance has done since it was founded in 1949.

The smaller forces will be restructured into multinational units, some of them able to deploy anywhere on NATO territory quickly as "rapid reaction" forces.

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